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DRAFT

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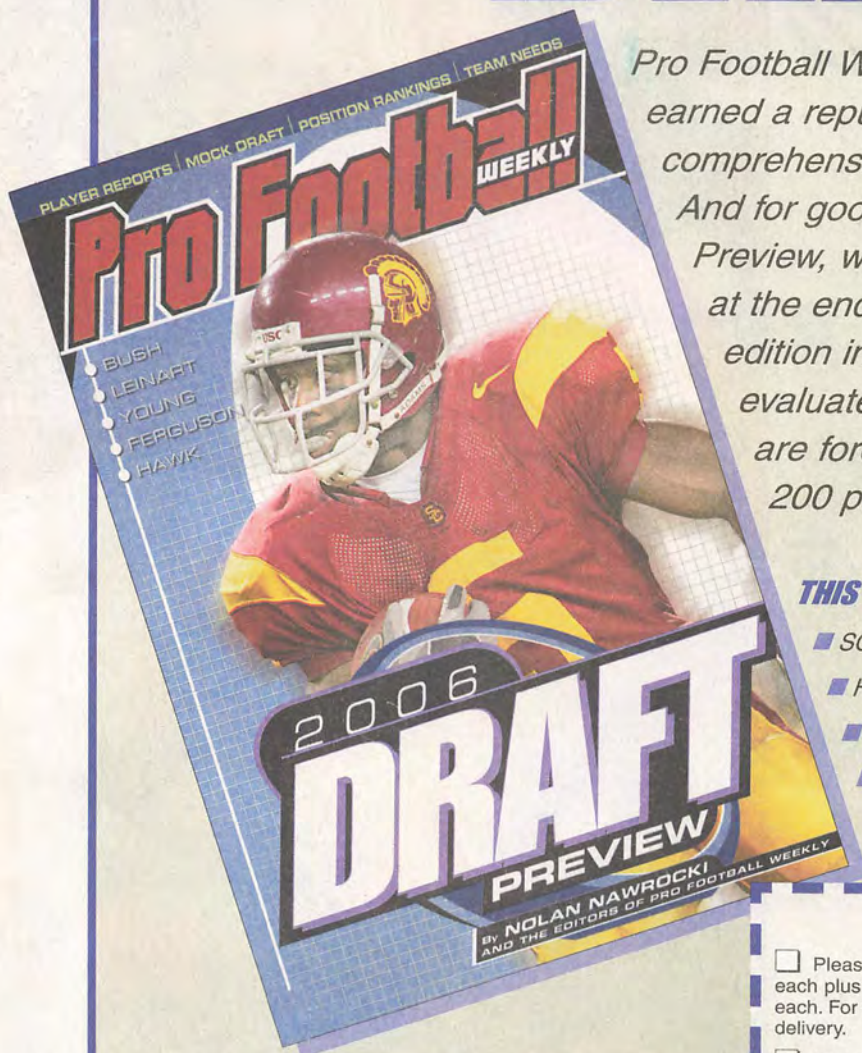
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JAY CUTLER

VANDERBILT UNIV. (CUTLER) / BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN (LEINART)

SoCal's dynamic duo

A red-hot spotlight was on them the entire 2005 season, as the Trojans attempted to take home a third national championship in a row. We take a look into the lives of last season's most glamorous college football tag team — USC's Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush

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Lost in translation

They starred on the college gridiron, expecting their success to carry over to the next level. Think Ryan Leaf, Mike Mamula and Andy Katzenmoyer. But somehow, along the way, they failed to live up to the hype in the pros. Why do some collegiate superstars fail once they get to the NFL?

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Attack of the underclassmen

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From the publisher...



HUB ARKUSH
Publisher / Editor

Created in September of 1967 to be "The Authority On Professional Football," *Pro Football Weekly* has devoted itself

for over 38 years to bringing hundreds of thousands of football fans around the country and throughout the world "The Best Coverage in the NFL!" It's no accident that owners, coaches and players throughout the National Football League have come to consider PFW as their own "insiders' trade publication" and one that no true football fan can afford to be without.

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front offices of all 32 NFL teams and for tens of thousands of serious fans as well.

Now we are proud to bring you the debut of PFW's 2006 Draft Guide magazine! From the creators of independent draft analysis comes this beautiful 160-page, full-color magazine. Written by Nolan Nawrocki and the editors of *Pro Football Weekly*, the 2006 Draft Guide features in-depth scouting

reports and player profiles on hundreds of the top prospects for the 2006 NFL draft, the most accurate heights, weights and 40-yard-dash times available anywhere, strengths, weaknesses and summaries on each player, feature stories on the top players, draft analyses and needs for all 32 NFL teams and much, much more. Our goal on these pages is to get every NFL fan prepped for the upcoming NFL draft and give you everything you need to know about all the players projected to be tabbed on the first day of the draft and a number of those whose names will be called on Day Two. For everyone, from the casual fan to the true "draftnik," this is a must-read. And for those of you who want even more, be sure to inquire about our Draft Preview book, which you'll find offered on these pages.

I'm confident you'll find this magazine to be the best read you've ever had on the NFL draft, and hope that you'll drop me a line and let me know what you think and if there's anything we can do to improve it.

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2006 NFL DRAFT



Q&A with JAY CUTLER

Cutler has drawn comparisons to Brett Favre for his strong arm and ability to both make plays on the move or stand in the pocket in the face of pressure and throw the ball downfield.

From Santa Claus, Ind., Cutler grew up a Bears fan because his parents, who hail from northern Indiana, are big Bears fans.

Cutler set numerous career and single-season Vanderbilt records, earned SEC Offensive Player of the Year honors, and led the Commodores to their best season in many years. I sat down with Cutler during Senior Bowl week in Mobile, Ala. to discuss his playing style, the comparisons to Favre and what he believes a quarterback needs to possess to be successful.

Q. Tell me about that win at Tennessee this past season. Where does that rank on your list of accomplishments?

A. Um, it's got to be up there, not just for my personal success but for the program, the city of Nashville, and for them to get that victory after it's been 20-something years was really great.

Q. The comparison that I'm sure you've heard — that you remind some observers of Brett Favre — is that just because you're a top quarterback from the South?

A. Yeah, I think every quarterback is different. I don't want to be Brett Favre. I'm not going to be Brett Favre and I don't think he would really like people saying that about either of us. So, it's just, hey, you've got to be compared to somebody and that's the closest thing. It's an honor to be mentioned in the same breath as him.

Q. Vandy, obviously, hasn't been a QB factory. Not a lot of pro prospects on the O-line or at receiver this year. Did that have an effect on you?

A. I don't know. I think the NFL is going to find talent. It's not like going from high school to college where you might get missed. In the NFL, there's just so much involved, so many people watching that you're going to

DRAFT FACTS

What: 71st annual selection meeting.

When: April 29-30, beginning at (tentative times) 12 p.m. EDT, Saturday, and 11 a.m. EDT, Sunday.

Length of sessions: The first three rounds will be conducted on Saturday, April 29, with the remaining four rounds on Sunday, April 30.

Time limit: Fifteen minutes for each first-round selection, 10 minutes for each second-round selection and five minutes for each selection in the remaining rounds.

get spotted if you've got talent. I was just in a fortunate situation. I mean, I got to play for four years and I got to play in the SEC. So, I got noticed a little bit.

Q. How did you pick Vanderbilt?

A. It was a long process. I wasn't recruited heavily and Vandy just kind of fell in there at the end and I kind of took a chance and it's paid off.

Q. What other schools were looking at you?

A. Illinois was early but they pulled my scholarship, so I mean, I was kind of out, and Vandy called, so I came aboard.

Q. What will you miss most about college?

A. Just the guys. Including going to class, you're with those guys all the time, you live with them. And I think the NFL is more of a job. It's an 8-to-5 job and you're there, you're there to get paid and it's not really the same as college, so I'm going to miss that the most.

Q. And that being said, that it's a job, what are you looking forward to in the NFL?

A. I mean, that it is a job and you get paid a lot of money to do something you really love. And I love football. Just to get that opportunity, to go out there every Sunday and get paid like that, I mean, it's just going to be a lot of fun.

Q. I know you met with Coach Saban and Dolphins. How did that go?

A. It went really well. I met with a lot of the offensive coaches, the QB coach and Mike Mularkey, and it went really well. We had dinner and stuff and I liked the guys a lot and I think they liked me. But, like I said, you never know what's going to happen until Draft Day.

Q. Have you talked with many teams?

A. No, I haven't really. I haven't talked to a

“I THINK EVERY QUARTERBACK IS DIFFERENT. I DON'T WANT TO BE BRETT FAVRE, AND I DON'T THINK HE WOULD REALLY LIKE PEOPLE SAYING THAT ABOUT EITHER OF US. HEY, YOU'VE GOT TO BE COMPARED TO SOMEBODY AND THAT'S THE CLOSEST THING. IT'S AN HONOR TO BE MENTIONED IN THE SAME BREATH AS HIM.”

JAY CUTLER | VANDERBILT

lot of teams. I mean, everyone is saying Detroit (is interested) but I haven't even gotten to talk to Detroit. And the coach with the Titans said they might be in the market. The Chiefs, the Dolphins. So I mean, there's a few out there but I mean, I've been told you might be drafted by someone you never talked to. So you just never know.

Q. What question have scouts been asking you the most?

A. It's just different. Each team is looking for something different in quarterbacks. Some might want to change something with me, others might not want to change anything. I think they all just focus on your leadership,



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

Draft Day memories

Remembering what happened while waiting for the phone to ring

It can be the most nerve-racking of days. The waiting. The wondering. The worrying. We asked several NFL players, coaches and execs what they remember about some of their Draft Day experiences.

OLB Shawne Merriman | Chargers [2005]

"I just remember that bell that rang between every draft pick that was called. I can still hear it over and over like it was yesterday. Even though I went with the 12th pick, it seemed like I was the last pick of the draft because it took so long for my name to get called. That is a day that will never be forgotten. ... I rented out a mansion in Upper Marlboro (Md.). My entire family came, and my friends came. I didn't quite have my money just yet, so I couldn't get everything I wanted (for the party), but it was pretty good, and we all enjoyed ourselves for that special occasion."

RB Larry Johnson | Chiefs [2003]

"My dad (Penn State DL coach Larry Johnson Sr.) wasn't there. He was at the Blue-White game, which is Penn State's intersquad scrimmage. I was sitting there on my couch, and everybody was in the room with me. They kept counting down and down and down, and it gets to the 16th pick, and Kansas City calls me. They say, 'We're going to select you because we're not sure whether Priest Holmes is going to return or not.' I said, 'All right, that's cool. That would be a good place for me to be at and so forth.' Then Pittsburgh jumped (traded) up, and my blood really got pumping then. I was thinking, you know, Penn State-Pittsburgh, me having that Pennsylvania niche in there. As far as marketing, I could kill it. Then Pittsburgh ends up selecting Troy Polamalu, and I don't know what's going on now. So then I slide all the way down, after Willis McGahee goes, and I'm still pissed off about that. So he goes to Buffalo, and after that, about four other guys from my draft class that went to Penn State with me my year, all were picked ahead of me, and I was like, 'What the hell's going on?' I thought I was going to get drafted early?' So then Kansas City calls me again before the 27th pick and says they're going to draft me again. And I

asked them if they were sure, because I didn't want to see another team jump (trade) up, and I slide down to the second round."

RB Cadillac Williams | Buccaneers [2005]

"My memory on Draft Day was when Tampa got started on the clock because there was so much speculation that everyone thought I was going to Tampa, but I wasn't sure. When they were on the clock, I remember thinking in my mind, 'OK Coach Gruden, come on now and pick me.' Once they called me, it was one of the most awesome feelings I've ever had."

Team president Bill Polian | Colts [2003]

"It sounds funny, but twice we couldn't find our player — once in Buffalo, once here in Indianapolis. We passed in Buffalo, not on the pick, but on the player. Ultimately, we got him in the next round. I don't want to give the (Buffalo) player's name, (but) it was Robert Mathis here. We couldn't locate them. They were at another location other than we had for them."

DE Osi Umenyiora | Giants [2003]

"I just remember (the Giants) calling me at the end of the second round. I was just like, shocked. They were one of the last teams I went to visit, and they picked me — and it was just a great day for me. A great feeling ... I was at home in Roswell, Georgia. I guess I was expecting (to be picked in the) late second, but more like early third round. I had heard third (round) the day before. That's where I was expecting, so it was a little surprise."

LS Nate Hodel | Cardinals [2001]

"After being a walk-on at Illinois, I didn't think I would be drafted. My coach called me and asked me who I had for an agent, and I thought he was joking with me. But I did participate in the Illinois Pro Day and waited for the draft to be over. Right after the draft, Carolina called me, and that was pretty cool. I was at this little run-down house that me and two other guys lived in. I was sitting in the living room when they called. I immediately called my girlfriend, who later became my wife, and we went out to lunch to celebrate."

what you've done at your school to provide leadership, just stuff that makes for a good quarterback.

Q. So, what qualities make a good leader, in your opinion?

A. I think it has a lot to do with respect. I don't think it's easy for a rookie to just jump in there and into that spot and to get the leadership that's expected out of that position. You've got to earn it, and that takes winning games, performing in pressure situations and just coming through.

Q. What traits would you say a successful

quarterback possesses?

A. Coach (Norm) Chow (the Titans' offensive coordinator) told me this: You've got to be accurate, you've got to be smart — you know, protect the ball, more importantly — and he said you've just got to make your teammates better. That's your job out there. You just do your job and get the ball to the players that make plays.

Q. What best illustrates your competitiveness?

A. I don't know. I've been a competitor all my life. That's why I love football. It's the ultimate competitive sport. I mean, it takes so

many people, 40-50 people, on a team to make things work. I just love playing this game. I love the fourth quarter and the pressure situations.

Q. Did you have a favorite team growing up?

A. The Bears. The Chicago Bears.

Q. Did you have a favorite player?

A. I think Jerry Rice was my favorite player when I was really young because I thought I might want to be a wide receiver, but that didn't pan out very well.

— MIKE HOLBROOK

FANTASY FORECAST

It typically takes rookies some time to make their presence felt in the world of fantasy football, but it's not uncommon for a few of the first-year guys to make an immediate splash. See Anquan Boldin, Clinton Portis, Julius Jones and Jeremy Shockley as evidence in recent years.

Here's a quick look at the rookies-to-be with the most potential for putting up good fantasy numbers next season.

QB MATT LEINART | USC

Leinart has made plenty of clutch plays in plenty of big games, so poise under pressure is a quality he will be expected to display if given a chance as a rookie. He's smart, shows good touch and precision, and has loads of experience. He's strictly a pocket passer and it will be interesting to see how he adapts to an offense with less talent, relative to the level of play, than the one he had in college.

QB VINCE YOUNG | Texas

Young could be a Week One starter if he's drafted by a team such as New Orleans, or he could sit on the bench for two years before getting a shot if he lands elsewhere. Regardless, he figures to make serious fantasy noise at some point with his improved passing skills, poise and impressive running ability. He has the potential to be the type of player who could

win you a fantasy matchup all by himself on occasion, but patience will be necessary.

ATH MICHAEL ROBINSON | Penn State

A college QB last season, Robinson has good size and runs well with the ball in his hands. At 6-1 and 2148 pounds, he has a presence on the field and the size to hold up to the rigors of the NFL, especially if he bulks up as a receiver or running back.

QB JAY CUTLER | Vanderbilt

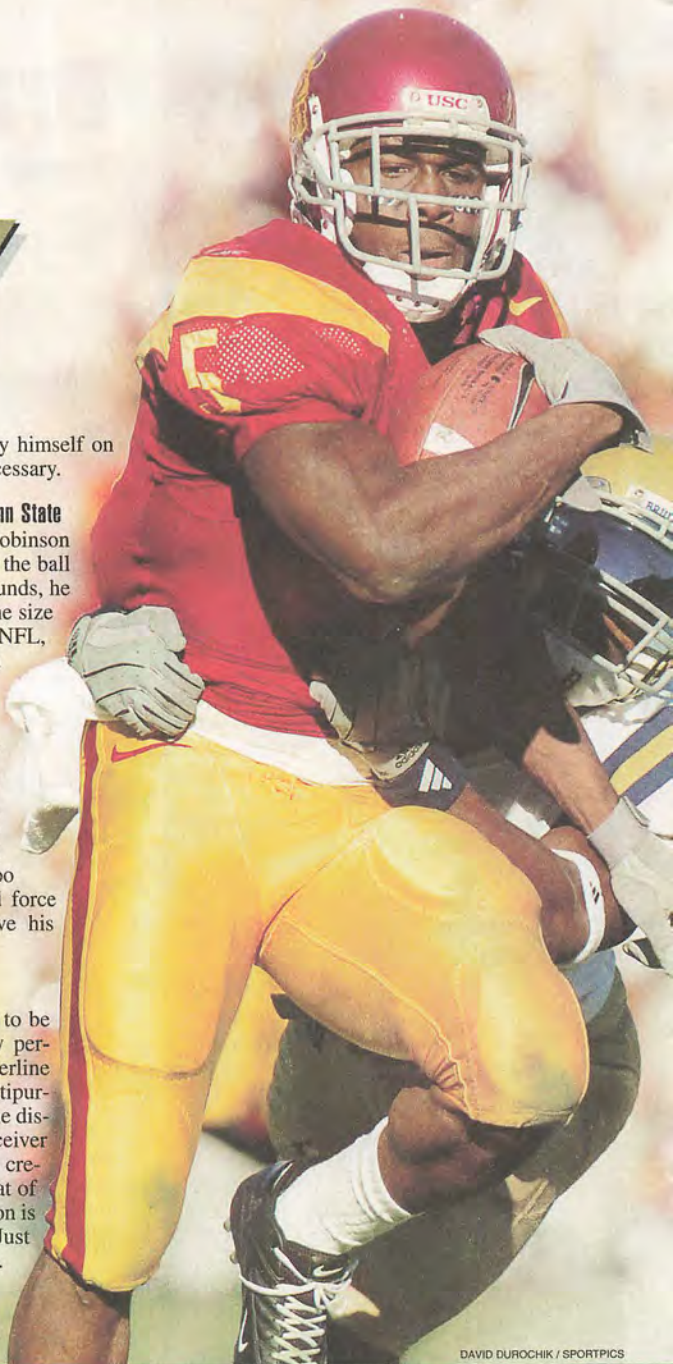
A relative unknown outside of the Southeastern Conference and NFL circles, Cutler has the size, strength, athleticism and arm that scouts and fantasy owners covet in a quarterback. He can put too much confidence in his arm and force the issue, but NFL types believe his flaws are correctable.

RB REGGIE BUSH | USC

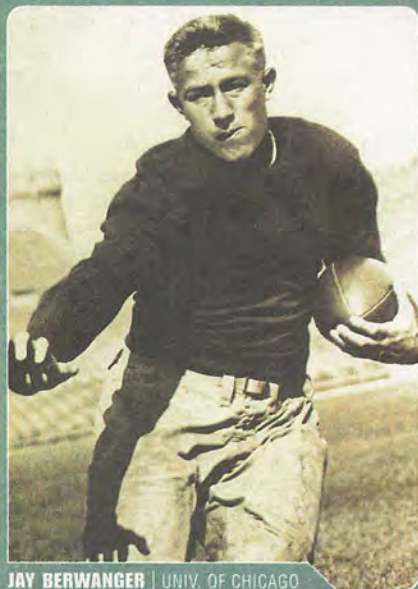
Bush, by all accounts, figures to be the most enticing rookie fantasy performer in '06. He could be a borderline first-round fantasy pick as a multipurpose threat, capable of taking it the distance at any time as a runner, receiver or returner. His elusiveness and creativity have been compared to that of Barry Sanders, and his acceleration is unmatched on a lot of levels. Just don't expect a monster workload.

RB LENDALE WHITE | USC

White is thunder to Bush's



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS



JAY BERWANGER | UNIV. OF CHICAGO

HISTORY OF THE DRAFT

Seventy years ago, Jay Berwanger was Reggie Bush. Both men were Heisman Trophy-winning backs picked No. 1 overall — or in Bush's case, the odds-on favorite to go first — but the similarities end there.

In 1936, the year of the NFL's first amateur draft, there was no ESPN; there were only nine teams and, in Berwanger's case, the man never played a down of professional football. He passed on the chance to play pro ball because the pay was better —

imagine this — as a sportswriter.

Times have changed all right, but some things have remained similar.

The first draft was conceived in 1935 by future commissioner Bert Bell and agreed on by the teams' owners. The concept was the same then as it is today: Determine the draft order by reverse order of the standings, giving the weaker teams the first chance to draft the top college prospects.

The draft was held Feb. 8, 1936 — a Saturday — starting with the pick of

lightning. He is a powerful, downhill runner who picks up yardage in chunks. He is surprisingly agile at 235 pounds and can wear out defenses. White knows what to do with the ball near the goal line (24 rushing TDs in '05), which can be big for fantasy purposes, but he is not much of a receiving threat.

RB LAURENCE MARONEY | Minnesota

After splitting carries with current Cowboys RB Marion Barber in 2003 and '04, Maroney proved he can play the part of an every-down back, carrying the ball more than 42 times twice this past season. He has fared well against stiff competition and is a consistent yardage producer. With more NFL teams beginning to utilize forms of zone blocking, Maroney's stock could rise.

RB BRIAN CALHOUN | Wisconsin

Calhoun might only be 5-9 and a shade less than 200 pounds, but he was a true workhorse in his brief stint in Madison after transferring from Colorado. He became the second player in Big Ten history to surpass 1,000 rushing yards (1,636) and 500 (571) receiving yards in the same season. His 22 rushing scores and 53 receptions as a running back were school records. Calhoun has a low center of gravity, making him tough to bring down with arm tackles, and he said he plans to shed the "third-down" tag that might initially follow him to the NFL.

RB DeANGELO WILLIAMS | Memphis

Williams has been incredibly productive against suspect competition in Conference USA, but he also hasn't had the luxury of a dominant line to run behind like Bush or Calhoun. Williams' speed hasn't fully returned after a leg injury in the bowl game after his junior season, but he is still very good in space and owns good instincts as a runner. The fact that he racked up 1,964 rushing yards in 11 games speaks volumes.

WR SANTONIO HOLMES | Ohio State

He could turn out to be the best in an otherwise below-average lot of pass catchers. He has great run-after-the-catch ability and is a savvy route runner. Holmes also could add a lot in the return game early in his pro career. He's a threat to track a ball deep or take a

short slant 80 yards.

WR CHAD JACKSON | Florida

Jackson, was not used vertically a lot as a junior, as seen by his 10.2 yards-per-catch average, but he does have some run-after-the-catch ability and is utilized on reverses.

WR DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS | Oregon

Williams played seven games before he was held below 83 yards receiving. He is a tall, skinny target who gained almost 18 yards per reception and scored 10 touchdowns on 59 catches last season. He is used occasionally on running plays, but he doesn't break big plays in that category.

WR SINORICE MOSS | Miami (FLA.)

Moss only made 37 catches with a young quarterback throwing to him, but his 16.6-yard average was impressive. Much like his older brother, Santana, who tore it up for the Redskins, Sinorice is small in stature but quick into his routes and tough to keep up with in the open field. He also brings skills as a returner.

TE VERNON DAVIS | Maryland

To gain 17.1 yards per catch as a tight end means you can get downfield and do some good things after the catch. Davis is big (6-2, 250) and gifted in the Kellen Winslow mold, the type who can take a five-yard out, hurdle a defender and take it 50 yards for a score. It wouldn't be a surprise for him to lead a team in catches early in his pro career.

TE JOE KLOPFENSTEIN | Colorado

At 6-6 with a 38-inch vertical jump and the ability to adjust to a poorly thrown ball, Klopfenstein can go over defenders in the red zone or in traffic. He also has the 4.6 speed to beat them down the seam. He has great athleticism and the work ethic to match.

TE MARCEDES LEWIS | UCLA

This tall, rangy target is still learning his way, as scary as that is, considering he caught 58 balls and 10 touchdowns for the Bruins in '05. He is built more like a wide receiver or an H-back and has the type of hands to make a difference at the pro level.

— TRENT MODGLIN

Berwanger by the Philadelphia Eagles and following with 80 other players, including four future Hall of Famers: tackle Joe Stydahar (sixth overall), picked by the Chicago Bears; back Tuffy Leemans (18th overall), New York Giants; end Wayne Millner (65th overall), Boston Redskins; and guard Dan Fortman (78th overall), Chicago Bears.

But the format differed then and has changed several times along the way. It began as a nine-round affair, increased to 10 the next season when the league added an expansion team, and jumped to 20 and 30 rounds in 1939 and 1942, respectively, the latter year starting a string during World War II when the event's name was changed to the "preferred negotiations list" so as to remove the word draft from the process

during wartime. More rounds were added because of the number of young men being drafted for war.

Over the next two decades, the format varied somewhat, with more significant changes occurring with the advent of the AFL. The biggest difference was the presence of a "bonus pick," beginning in 1947, that was awarded, lottery-style, to one team for the rights to the No. 1 overall pick; that team then would relinquish its pick in the 30th round. The bonus-pick system was disbanded in 1958.

When the two leagues merged in 1967, the new NFL held its initial combined draft — one that was shortened to 17 rounds. It stayed that way for 10 years, then shortened to 12 in '77 and to its current length of seven rounds in 1994.

— ERIC EDHOLM

NFList:

Best draft picks in the past 25 years

Many NFL scouts consider the 49ers' selection of Notre Dame QB Joe Montana in the third round (82nd overall) in 1979 the best draft pick of all-time. Montana won four Super Bowls and, hand-in-hand with Bill Walsh, turned the 49ers into a dynasty. So who's the best since Joe Cool? We asked a panel of NFL scouts, coaches and personnel directors for their two cents, weighing equally the value of the pick and what the player has meant to the franchise. All comments were made on the condition of anonymity.

1. QB Tom Brady | Patriots

(199th overall in 2000) — "The second coming of Joe Montana. I guess the pick proves a couple of things. First, the inexact science of scouting, especially quarterbacks. Everybody passed on him, multiple times. New England hit the jackpot. He just finds a way. You can't rattle him. That's what Joe was about. A team can search for decades and decades to find that stability and security."

2. OLB Lawrence Taylor | Giants

(Second overall in 1981) — "The leadership on that team — L.T. as a stark contrast to Phil (Simms) — was indescribable. Taylor was the best player in football when he wanted to be. Bill Parcells and Phil demanded a lot of him, and everyone kind of marched in step on that."

3. RB Emmitt Smith | Cowboys

(17th overall in 1990) — "Heart and soul of the Cowboys in the 1990s. The best back of his time. They never win a Super Bowl without him."

4. QB Dan Marino | Dolphins

(27th overall in 1983) — "He only won one MVP (1984) award, and he's abused for never winning this or that. The thesis here is what's important, and it will say he is the best passer, pure pocket quarterback, that ever lived."

5. DE Reggie White | Eagles

(Fourth overall in 1984 supplemental draft) — "The top three picks, all coming from the USFL, were Steve Young, Mike Rozier and (Gary) Zimmerman. None of them thought they could sign Reggie White. A most rare MVP-caliber defensive player, he was the foundation for the Eagles in the '80s into the '90s."

6. OLB Derrick Thomas | Chiefs

(Fourth overall in 1989) — "Nobody knew how good he could be coming out of Alabama. He was fast and quick and all of those things, but not everyone saw him as a football player."

— JEFF REYNOLDS

SNEAK PREVIEW

Looking ahead to the 2007 NFL draft

It's way too early to know exactly how next year's draft will play out. Some players rise from nowhere while others fall by the curb with disappointing seasons. But based on the 2005 season, the following are the top 10 players PFW has identified as having first-round-caliber traits of those who could be available for next year's draft.

TOP 10 SENIORS

QB BRADY QUINN | Notre Dame

Had outstanding physical tools before receiving prestigious degree in quarterbacking from Charlie Weiss. Deciding to return to complete a graduate degree with Weiss will elevate his floor and could make Quinn a can't-miss pick.

OLT JOE THOMAS | Wisconsin

Received top 10-15 grade from advisory committee before blowing out his knee in the Capital One Bowl. If he can return to form, he will be a franchise left tackle in the NFL.

LB PAUL POSLUSZNY | Penn State

Plays much bigger than his size and shows the instincts, intelligence and on-field leadership to finish his career as the Nittany Lions' most productive linebacker ever to have played the game.

QB DREW STANTON | Michigan State

Athletic ability won games as a sophomore, and accuracy won them as a junior before battling through multiple injuries late in the year. Shows the moxie and toughness to be a great pro.

DE TIM CROWDER | Texas

Big, strong, powerful and explosive pass rusher who enters 2006 as a three-year starter at defensive left end and

will command a lot of attention as a senior.

DE QUENTIN MOSES | Georgia

Athletic enough to have played on the Bulldogs' basketball team earlier in his career and creates a lot of pressure with his ability to bend off the edge and beat offensive tackles with his long first step.

WR JEFF SAMARDZIJA | Notre Dame

A lot like Larry Fitzgerald in terms of his rare concentration and ability to adjust to the ball. What's scary is that Samardzija could be drafted even higher in baseball as the Irish's ace left-handed pitcher.

OT JUSTIN BLAYLOCK | Texas

Has started every game of his career at right tackle and has been the Longhorns' most consistent offensive lineman.

LB PATRICK WILLIS | Mississippi

Extremely tough to battle through injuries and athletic enough to lock down receivers in the slot, Willis has the football temperament teams seek at the LB position.

S BRANDON MERRIWEATHER | Miami (Fla.)

Could be mentioned in the same sentence with Sean Taylor by the end of his junior season. Merriweather is a very active, lights-out hitter with cover skills to match.

TOP 10 JUNIORS

WR CALVIN JOHNSON | Georgia Tech

A cross between Randy Moss and Terrell Owens without all the baggage, Johnson has faced double-teams since his freshman year and will draw even more attention from NFL scouts in the coming years.

QB JAMARCUS RUSSELL | LSU

The second coming of Doug Williams, Russell has outstanding size and tremendous arm strength and showed much-improved accuracy as a



BRADY QUINN | NOTRE DAME

sophomore.

RB ADRIAN PETERSON | Oklahoma

An Eric Dickerson-type runner with the ability to go from 0 to 60 mph in a flash, Peterson combines tremendous speed, great balance and tackle-breaking ability.

WR TED GINN JR. | Ohio State

Blazer with world-class speed not seen since the days of 1995 eighth overall pick Joey Galloway. Ginn is a big-time playmaker with special return ability.

CB ANTOINE CASON | Arizona

Fluid mover with the speed and athleticism to provide blanket coverage and lock down half the field. NFL pedigree is clearly noticeable in his play.

OLT SAM BAKER | USC

The son of Arena Football League commissioner David Baker, Sam is a great technician who enters 2006 as a three-year starter at left tackle, anchoring one of the best offensive lines in football.

QB BRIAN BROHM | Louisville

The product of a quarterback family, Brohm looks like he was born to play the position and is very refined for his age, although he will be coming off a torn anterior cruciate ligament injury this fall.

WR DWAYNE JARRETT | USC

Clutch, go-to receiver with great length, excellent hands and outstanding concentration to make tough grabs in traffic.

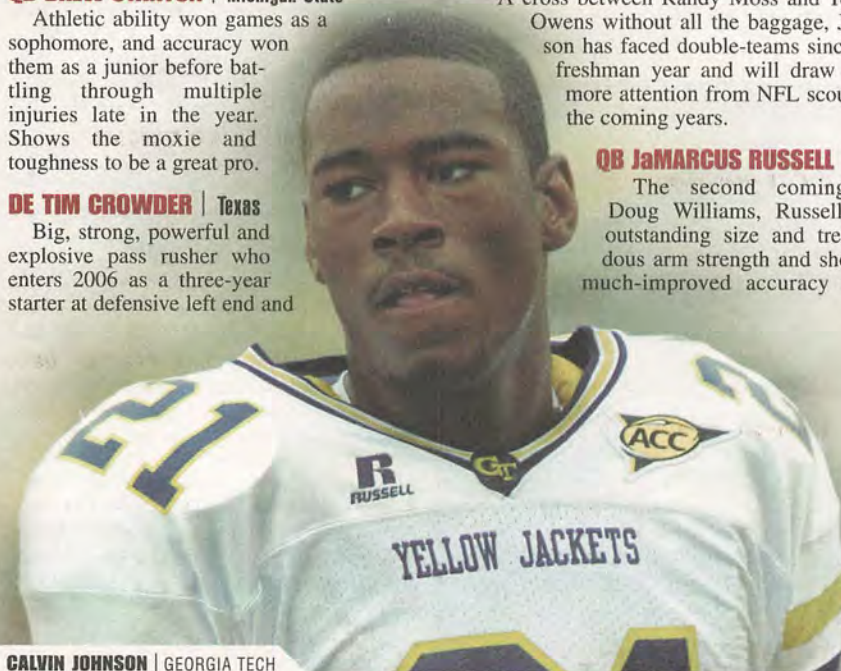
RB MARSHAWN LYNCH | California

A strong and powerful, yet quick, runner who can run over or around tacklers and does not go down easily.

DE LAWRENCE JACKSON | USC

Has a terrific blend of size, strength, speed and smarts and was easily the biggest difference-maker on the Trojans' defensive line as a sophomore.

— NOLAN NAWROCKI



CALVIN JOHNSON | GEORGIA TECH

INSTANT IMPACT

The best 2005 draft picks from each round

Generally, it's a fair assumption that players selected in the early rounds of the draft are going to have a greater initial impact than players taken in the later rounds. It's only natural to believe that a first-rounder will contribute more as a rookie than, say, a fifth-rounder or a seventh-rounder. Nevertheless, there are rookies from every round that get on the field and make an impact in their debut pro seasons. We took a look back at the 2005 season and our editors were asked to vote for one rookie from each round that they believe stood out above the others selected in the same round.

► ROUND ONE

OLB SHAWNE MERRIMAN | Chargers

Some feared that his lack of participation in offseason workouts — because he didn't want to risk injury prior to signing a contract — would stunt his development in his rookie campaign. Those concerns were unfounded, as Merriman proved to be a pass-rushing menace, recording a team-high 10 sacks.

Others receiving votes: RB Cadillac Williams, Buccaneers.

■ ■ ■

► ROUND TWO

MLB LOFA TATUPE | Seahawks

A 16-game starter, Tatupe led the team in tackles with 104, recorded four sacks and picked off three passes, including one

that he returned for a touchdown. He called all the defensive signals for a squad that allowed the 13th-fewest points in the NFL last season.

Others receiving votes: LB Odell Thurman, Bengals.

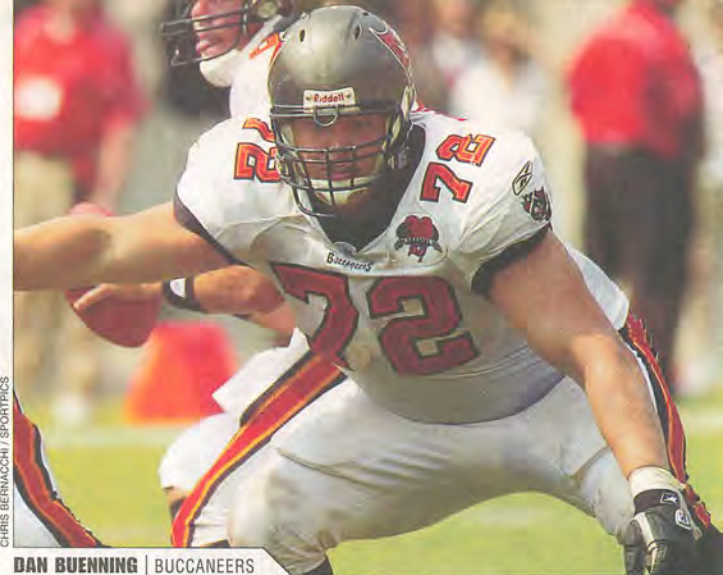
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► ROUND THREE

OLB KIRK MORRISON | Raiders

The third round was filled with productive youngsters, but Morrison's team-high 116 tackles in 15 starts earned him the nod from our voters.

Others receiving votes: LB Channing Crowder, Dolphins; RB Frank Gore, 49ers; LB LeRoy Hill, Seahawks; QB Charlie Frye, Browns.



DAN BUENNING | BUCCANEERS

► ROUND FOUR

OG DAN BUENNING | Buccaneers

He entered training camp expecting to be a backup, but an injury to Matt Stinchcomb led to Buenning starting at left guard in Week One. He never surrendered the spot. Coach Jon Gruden was impressed with the rookie's intelligence and physical play.

Others receiving votes: QB Kyle Orton, Bears; KR Jerome Mathis, Texans.

■ ■ ■

► ROUND FIVE

OLB MICHAEL BOLEY | Falcons

An injury to Ed Hartwell forced the Falcons to shuffle the deck at linebacker. Boley had 63 tackles in 11 starts.

Others receiving votes: DE

Trent Cole, Eagles.

■ ■ ■

► ROUND SIX

S CHRIS HARRIS | Bears

Harris supplanted Mike Green in the starting lineup and finished with 58 tackles and three picks.

Others receiving votes: OT Rob Petitti, Cowboys.

■ ■ ■

► ROUND SEVEN

CB REYNALDO HILL | Titans

First-rounder Pacman Jones was supposed to be the impact rookie in Tennessee. But Hill had three picks, while Jones failed to net an interception.

Others receiving votes: QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, Rams.

—KEITH SCHLEIDEN

SENIOR BOWL REPORT



Scouts believe that the 57th edition of the Senior Bowl, held Jan. 22-28 in Mobile, Ala., featured the best crop of senior players that the game has seen in at least five years. There were likely 15 first-rounders on display, led by Virginia OLT D'Brickshaw Ferguson, a projected top-five pick, who became the highest-rated tackle to participate in the Senior Bowl in several years.

While Ferguson solidified his standing in the upcoming draft, several players boosted their stock after eye-opening performances in Mobile.

They are listed below in alphabetical order:

■ **Nebraska S Daniel Bullocks** moved up with a strong week on and off the field and is considered a solid second-round prospect. Off the field, he was surprisingly astute in interviews with teams, impressing NFL personnel. On it, he always seemed to be around the ball, displaying a solid grasp of coverages and

showing more athleticism than brother, Josh, a second-round pick of the Saints last year.

■ **USC TE Dominique Byrd** looked like a receiver in a big man's body, showing off great hands. He did a great job finding openings in the defense and making short or deep catches. He also impressed with his ability to adjust to the ball, making tough over-the-shoulder catches look easy. As one NFL personnel man said, "he made himself money this week." Byrd likely moved up into the second round.

■ **Vanderbilt QB Jay Cutler's** stock rose after a strong week of practice, likely lifting him into the top 10 of April's draft. Though he didn't have a great Senior Bowl game, Cutler impressed during the week of practices, showing all the tools teams are looking for in a pro quarterback with a very strong arm that can fit the ball into tight spaces, excellent on-field leadership and toughness.

■ **N.C. State DE Manny Lawson** has drawn comparisons to Dolphins Pro Bowl DE Jason

Taylor. Lawson projects as an open-side end. He's deceptively quick, possesses great pass-rush skills and blockers struggled to get their hands on him. Auburn OT Marcus McNeill said Lawson was the best pass rusher he faced in Mobile. One scout said of Lawson, "all he did was come to play." He may have lifted himself into the first round of the draft.

■ **Ohio State C Nick Mangold** solidified his spot as the top center available in this year's draft. He displayed great feet, technique and toughness and excelled in one-on-one drills. He also showed good leadership and intelligence and was impressive enough to be taken in the first round. Only three centers have been tabbed in the opening round in the past 10 years.

■ **Northwestern State (La.) CB David Pittman** was a late addition to the Senior Bowl, backing out of the Hula Bowl in order to come to Mobile. After playing through a painful dislocated elbow as a junior, he was a bit of an unknown as a senior. But if few teams knew about him prior to Senior Bowl week, they all know about him now. Pittman impressed scouts by showing good hips, eyes and instincts — with a knack for being able to quickly jump pass routes. Look for him to be selected in the third or fourth round on Draft Day.

—MIKE HOLBROOK

The Trojan

**USC'S DYNAMIC DUO CAPTIVATED
& RELUCTANTLY BECAME ATHLETIC**



They became the first Heisman Trophy winners to play together in a game after winning college football's most prestigious award, they were treated more like rock stars than football players the past year and they almost always declined to sign autographs.

But despite those similarities, there are subtle differences between USC's dynamic duo, QB Matt Leinart and RB Reggie Bush, as they prepare to become high-profile picks in the upcoming NFL draft.

When they took New York by storm for the Heisman Trophy ceremony in December, Leinart quickly threw on a blue suit while his counterpart, Bush, took nearly an hour to get ready, even though he chose his suit several days before the ceremony.

"He's got a new outfit every time he goes out," Leinart said. "Definitely, his fashion sense is good, but it's kind of funny."

While Leinart wore a wrinkled shirt to go on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," Bush stressed out picking just the right clothes for "The Tyra Banks Show." Bush would never be caught in an outfit that didn't match, while the superstitious Leinart wore the same pair of boxers for each start of his career, except one: the loss to California in 2003.

"They're my lucky boxers," Leinart said. "They've got holes in them. I clean them every week, but they're gross."

Bush and Leinart provided the best 1-2 punch in col-

warriors

THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL WORLD

KINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA **By SCOTT WOLF**

lege football, but they wouldn't make an ideal couple socially. While Leinart enjoyed drinking as much as any college student, Bush didn't touch liquor.

Bush even took a stab at his much-celebrated teammate immediately after they returned from New York, when some embarrassing pictures of Leinart draped over a girl at a club appeared all over the Internet.

Asked if any pictures of the USC tailback would appear next, Bush replied quickly.

"I'm not worried about that; I don't drink," he said.

They spent three years together at USC, going 37-2 with two national titles, two Heismans and a 34-game winning streak. But more often than not, they were different. Leinart famously grew up as a chubby, cross-eyed kid while Bush ran for 544 yards and eight touchdowns in his second Pop Warner game.

But other than their love of a motorized cart to escort them from the practice field or Rose Bowl as a way to avoid autograph seekers, they didn't always have a lot in common.

There were even some tense moments between the two last summer, particularly if Bush made Leinart wait while the two posed for a photo shoot. But as the season progressed, they each seemed to understand what the other went through, especially as Bush's star ascended and perhaps eclipsed Leinart's by the end of the year.

Ultimately, they shared too many common memories not to feel a bond. In the beginning of the season, Bush joked he was envious Leinart got security guards to escort him off the practice field. But by the Heis-



man ceremony, Bush had earned his own escorts.

They also shared strong relationships with their families. Leinart always spent Monday nights having dinner with his brother. Lunch on Wednesdays were with his father, usually at a submarine sandwich shop, while Friday lunches were also with his brother. Sundays he returned home to Costa Mesa in Orange County to relax.

Bush was raised by his mother, Denise, and since the age of 2, his stepdad, LaMar Griffin. At USC games, they wore identical cardinal jerseys with "Mom" and "Dad" on the back. His younger stepbrother, Javon, wears his own jersey that says, "Brother."

"My parents are so proud of me," Bush said. "They're my biggest fans."

Bush was an enigma to many at USC, eloquent and loquacious one minute, aloof the next. Engaged and enthusiastic in the locker room after a game, he could show up Monday without wanting to talk to anyone.

But several games into the season, Bush acknowledged his season was becoming special and he needed to appreciate it.

"For me, it's crazy," Bush said. "But I'm trying to enjoy it as much as possible. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. People would kill to be in my shoes."

Not that he always enjoyed dealing with the public. When he returned home to San Diego over Christmas break, fresh off that Heisman victory, Bush wearily signed a few autographs at a shopping mall, then quickly left.

"I didn't want to be standing there signing all day," he said.

He even felt sorry for his family, which drew adulation from USC fans at every game at the Coliseum.

"At games people are constantly trying to talk to them when they're trying to enjoy the game," Bush said. "When you have 'Mom,' 'Dad' and 'Brother' (on jerseys), it says, 'Come get me.' After every game, my mom looks more tired and worn out than me."

Bush never seemed to wear out at USC, even as he gained 3,169 yards in three seasons and averaged a school-record 7.3 yards per carry. By comparison, O.J. Simpson averaged 5.1 yards, Marcus Allen 5.2 and Charles White 5.4.

Of USC's top eight all-time rushers, only teammate LenDale White (5.8) came within 1.5 yards of Bush's average per carry.

"I don't think about that record, but it's pretty cool," Bush said.

During his three years, Bush became known for his burning desire to succeed. That made him a favorite of USC head coach Pete Carroll because he showed up for every practice, never missed weight-training sessions and attended class.

In other words, he did all the things that

REGGIE BUSH ON WORKING OUT WITH CHARGERS STAR RB LADAINIAN TOMLINSON THE SUMMER BEFORE THE 2005 SEASON:

"It was the first time I ever threw up in a workout. I like to think of myself in pretty good shape, and he showed me what it takes. It's a whole other level. It changed my whole workout, my whole thought process, and I came back with a renewed focus."



his counterpart, LenDale White, sometimes struggled doing. That work ethic caused Carroll to award the starting job to Bush in 2005 even though White started in '04.

"Reggie deserves it," Carroll said. "He's been a leader with his actions and done everything we asked."

His dedication was never more apparent than in San Diego last summer, when Bush went home to San Diego to work with Chargers RB LaDainian Tomlinson.

Training sessions with Tomlinson were tougher than expected, and Bush quickly got sick, but he never gave up.

"It was the first time I ever threw up in a workout," Bush said. "I like to think of myself in pretty good shape, and he showed me what it takes. It's a whole other level. It changed my whole workout, my whole thought process, and I came back with a renewed focus."

That discipline carried through to his refusal to publicly say he would turn pro even though everyone knew he would following the Rose Bowl.

When his stepfather, Griffin, said during the USC-UCLA game his son would turn pro, Bush was less than pleased.

Griffin probably didn't make USC fans happy with his comment on national television, "I don't think he's staying."

Bush summoned Griffin in the locker

room to discuss the comment afterward, and a contrite Griffin then said, "I don't know what he will do. It's his decision."

Bush was less than thrilled about the matter.

"He put me against a wall. He put me out there," Bush said. "I haven't made a decision yet."

Bush could be moody, but he never let down his teammates. When USC played UCLA, he spent part of the game reassuring Leinart, who struggled at the outset and cried before the game, emotionally overwrought at the idea of playing his final college home game.

"It was apparent he wasn't in sync," Bush said. "I saw in his face that he was frustrated. He's not able to have a great game every game. It's important that your teammates support each other. I just wanted to give him that confidence."

Leinart returned the support after the game when he said he would vote for Bush to win the Heisman Trophy. Leinart got a vote because he won the award last year.

"Reggie's got my vote," Leinart said. "He's the greatest player in the country this year. It was an honor winning it last year and getting that hug from Reggie, and I'm just excited to get back to New York and give him his hug."

Leinart got to give Bush that hug when

the tailback became USC's seventh Heisman winner. It was a symbolic moment because the previous year Bush was almost an afterthought as Leinart won the award.

However, the night Leinart won, Bush vowed he would win a year later — and kept his word.

"I took it all in," Bush said. "I was kind of a witness. I learned a lot from my first trip to New York."

It also served as the perfect motivator. Bush won by a landslide, as voters watched him amass a Pacific-10 Conference record 513 all-purpose yards against Fresno State and follow that with 260 yards rushing against UCLA.

"Reggie is capable of doing a lot of stuff," Griffin said. "He's a firm believer that if you put your mind to it, you can do it. (Against Fresno State) he was stopping and spinning on a dime. I've been seeing that since he was 9 years old."

Leinart, handsome and immensely popular at USC, makes it impossible to believe the stories that he was "the fat, cross-eyed kid with glasses."

He was born with his left eye out of alignment with his right but underwent surgery for it when he was 3. Leinart wore glasses growing up, which, combined with his chubby build, made him an easy target on the playground.

"I know what it's like to be on both sides," Leinart said. "There's all the glory, all the attention, living on top of the world. Growing up — it's not a super sob story — but it was tough."

"When you're a kid and you have the problems I had, it's one of those things where I never thought this would happen. My life has completely changed. How people treat me has completely changed. The attention is fun, it's a great opportunity, but sometimes I look at it like that's not who I am."

That seems amazing today. It's especially hard to believe now that Leinart was so unhappy during his redshirt freshman season. His father, Bob, met twice with offensive coordinator Norm Chow to complain about his lack of snaps in practices.

Leinart even said during training camp he would consider his options and perhaps transfer if his situation did not improve.

Chow diffused the situation, and it's unlikely a homebody like Leinart would have left Southern California, but none of it surprised his high school coach, Bruce Rollinson at Mater Dei High in Santa Ana.

Rollinson knew that Leinart never did well when he was ignored or criticized.

"Matt thrives on confidence," Rollinson said. "By no means did we coddle him when he was here, but we kept it light and airy, which is difficult for me to do. If he came off after throwing a bad pass, I'd say, 'That was a real beauty.'"

Although he says he doesn't like hanging out with celebrities, he almost always seems to be around one since becoming USC's starting quarterback. He dated professional surfer-model Veronica Kay, became close friends with actor-singer Nick

Lachey and attended parties in Hollywood with Paris Hilton.

Tabloid reporters called a dining facility at USC when word leaked that he and Lachey ate lunch there. He enjoyed lunch with actor Will Ferrell in the facility.

He also played the role of celebrity like a pro, wearing a baseball cap nearly down to his eyes to hide his identity on USC's campus.

Although Leinart loved mingling with



MATT LEINART ON LIVING THE HIGH-PROFILE LIFE AS THE TROJANS' STAR QUARTERBACK IN TRENDY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

"My life has completely changed. How people treat me has completely changed. The attention is fun, it's a great opportunity, but sometimes I look at it like that's not who I am."

celebrities, he did not appreciate reporters writing about it.

When several newspapers reported Leinart attended a party with Hilton, he expressed displeasure to USC officials about his private life going public. It's this contradiction that made some at USC wince when he made the following comment about Bush and him immediately after the Heisman Trophy ceremony.

"Both of us received a lot of attention this year. Neither of us likes attention, but we've learned to deal with it," he said.

When USC played UCLA this season, he brought actor Wilmer Valderrama, a star of TV's "That 70s Show," to the bonfire rally before the game. If anyone doubted his interest in actors or the power of celebrity, they got another reminder less than a week after the Rose Bowl, when Leinart signed a deal with Creative Artists Agency in Beverly Hills, specifically to represent him in off-field activities like movie roles or endorsements.

"Matt is a truly exceptional individual with enormous potential as a personality who transcends his achievements on the field," CAA president Richard Lovett said.

If nothing else, the ungodly amount of attention should make the adjustment to the NFL a snap for Leinart.

"It's helped him understand the amount of scrutiny you're under to be an NFL quarterback," said USC assistant head coach/QB coach Steve Sarkisian, who spent last year as an assistant with the Oakland Raiders. "The media, the questions, the time management, the notoriety, girls trying to throw themselves at him — they're all different issues to deal with."

Even though Leinart threw for more yards last season than he had in 2003 and 2004, there was a perception his season was worse because he admitted he "struggled" during the season.

Leinart said he didn't regret telling the team midway through the season he performed poorly, even if it affected his Heisman Trophy candidacy.

"I didn't care about the whole individual stuff," Leinart said. "I was being honest with the team, and that drew their respect. I just told them the truth."

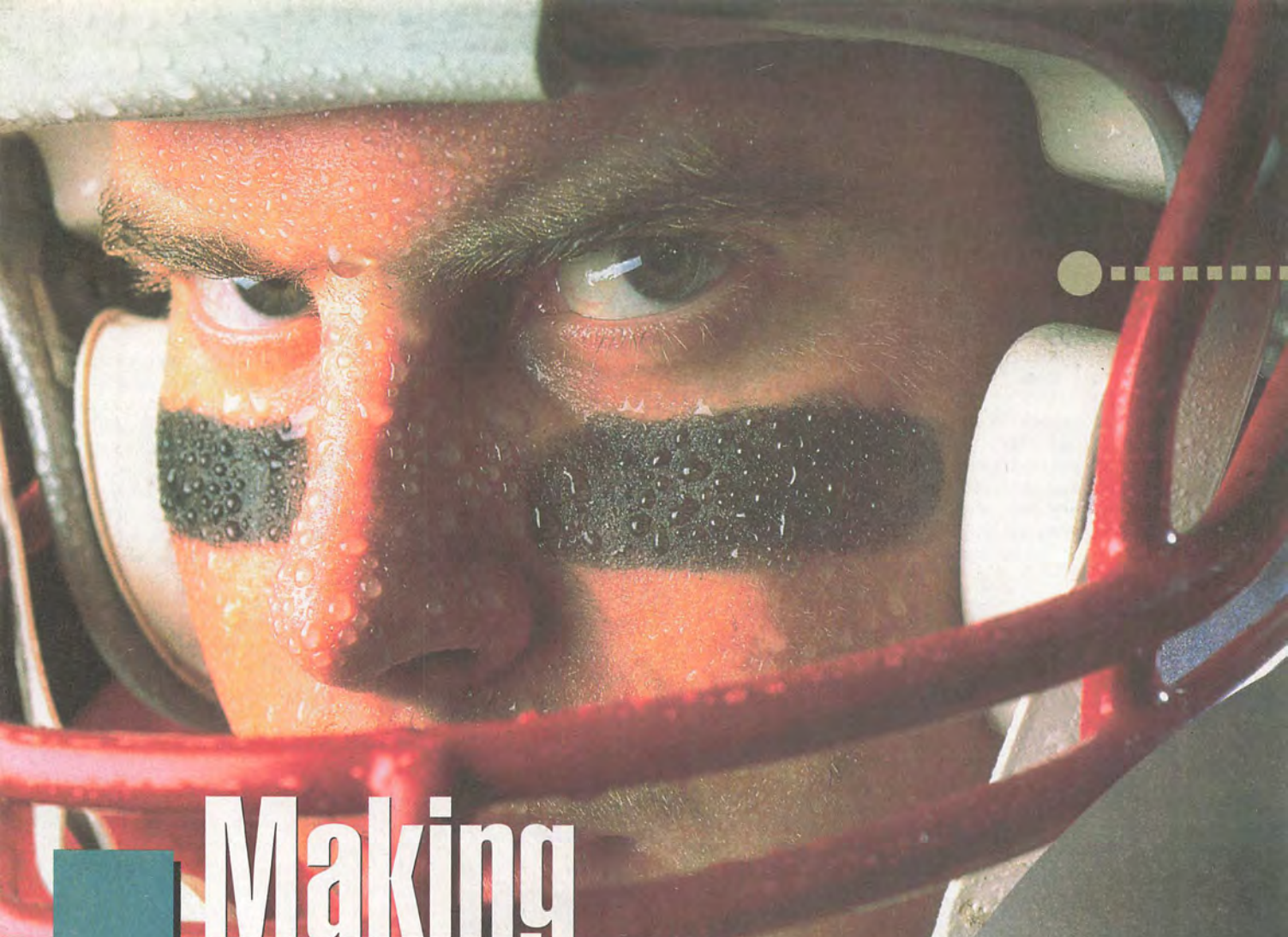
He still finished with more than 3,800 yards passing with 28 touchdowns and eight interceptions. He completed 66 percent of his passes and finished his career with 99 touchdown passes, the sixth-most in NCAA history. He passed for more than 200 yards in 36 of his 39 starts.

But minutes after completing his college career, Leinart refused to concede Texas was the better team in the Longhorns' 41-38 victory.

"It's tough, but we'll move on," Leinart said. "We still think we are the better football team; we just couldn't make the plays. We didn't execute, and that's about it."

With that, Leinart was ready to depart from the Rose Bowl and worry about the NFL ... but not before requesting a cart, of course, to avoid those always-present fans.

Scott Wolf covers USC football for the Los Angeles Daily News.



ZUMA PRESS

Making THE Leap

WHY GREAT COLLEGE PLAYERS
DON'T ALWAYS MAKE GREAT PROS



By
NOLAN NAWROCKI

San Diego Chargers GM A.J. Smith has received phone calls from disgruntled parents wondering why their three-time All-American son not only was not drafted in the NFL, but did not even get a free-agent opportunity. PFW has fielded some of the same types of calls from puzzled family members wondering how their nephew — after notching first-team all-conference honors and starting all four years in a major college program — could be passed over by every team.

Sometimes the explanation is simple.

Sometimes it is more complex. But trying to understand why great college players do not become great pros is a question that could puzzle even the greatest of evaluators.

The unknown

In the business of evaluating football players, there are too many factors involved to get every pick right. Almost like playing the stock market, an investor can study every aspect of a company, even have insider knowledge about sales figures and new products being unveiled, and it does not mean the stock will act as expected. There are too

many other variables in the economy that can affect how it acts.

The same holds true with football players. Astute scouts can easily break down a player's strengths and weaknesses. They can gauge the strength of a quarterback's arm, how quickly he releases the ball, whether he can go through his progression reads and find an open target. They can size up every part of his game and take the most detailed description of his body type. They even have plenty of insider information about a player's mental makeup and personality from working relationships with college coaches and dealing heavily with the

THE UNKNOWN | HOW ELSE COULD YOU EXPLAIN RYAN LEAF, WITH ALL THE PHYSICAL ABILITY IN THE WORLD, NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THE DIMINUTIVE DOUG FLUTIE HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO?

player, not to mention all the psychological and intelligence tests they dole out.

But in every evaluation, there are traits that cannot be measured with a stopwatch, scale, radar gun or Wonderlic test. Desire, heart, passion — what scouts call football character. Scouts grade it, but there is no measuring cup to come up with an exact read. Personal character can be even more

difficult to identify and is a challenge all employers try hard to decipher. What defines character in the football world?

It is how a player will respond in the face of adversity. It is how he will handle the distractions that come with the game's intense following and popularity. It is how much time he will spend studying his playbook. It is how a player handles money and how much he will let it change his work habits. It is being willing to make big sacrifices for the love of the game and having the desire to chase greatness. It is how well players can avoid the trappings of success — fame and fortune and everything that comes with it. The key all-encompassing term is "intangibles."

"When you look at the intangibles of a player, I think that is a huge determiner (of success)," Bears GM Jerry Angelo said. "I think it's a big reason why there are first-round busts. You only have to look at the money these players make now. Life changes for them. We know how important their passion must be for the game to continue to be the best they can be. And we know in college, they are trying to be the best they could be because they have not gotten a bite of the apple. Once they have that bite, are they going to keep it on? That's tough to determine. It's very tough. It's one of the toughest things to determine.

When players are in a whole new culture with new friends and having to deal with family members — you have a lot of people pulling at you now."

If there is one common thread to success in the NFL that could explain why so many average talents have overachieved and become great players and so many superbly talented athletes have failed, it is character. How else could you explain Ryan Leaf, with all the physical ability in the world, not being able to accomplish what the diminutive Doug Flutie has been able to do? Or why nearly a fifth of the league is com-

prised of undrafted free agents who entered the league with a chip on their shoulder after being labeled too small or too slow to make it and have shown the laser-beam focus and dedication to persevere. Examples abound on every roster.

Maintaining focus can be a constant battle.

"Some players use football as a vehicle and do not totally commit to it while they are there," Smith said. "What brings down some great players — all of a sudden it's all about them off the field. Commercials. Getting on ESPN highlights. Getting inter-



THE SYSTEM |
DAVID KLINGLER PLAYED IN A RUN-AND-SHOOT OFFENSE AT THE UNIV. OF HOUSTON, WHICH DID NOT PREPARE HIM FOR READING THE DISGUISED COVERAGES YOU SEE IN THE NFL.

viewed with every station known to mankind — radio, television. They all want the glory on them. They lose their fight and their fire to be the best. Maybe not the first year, but the second, third and fourth year, and I could name you a bunch of guys that I am watching around the league — and I won't — wondering if they will go down those roads. It makes coaches and general managers very nervous."

●----- The traits

"If they cannot do it in college, they cannot do it in the pros."

Such is the logic of NFL scouts regarding many traits, from a quarterback's arm strength to drill the out to a linebacker's instincts to find the ball to a cornerback's ball skills to knock it down.

If there is not a body of work showing that a player can excel in those areas when résumés (game tapes) are reviewed, then it is generally safe to say there's a good chance he will never.

A defining example: The top stat many teams use to gauge the success of a cornerback is how many hits he has on the ball. The number of times a defensive back is



drafted from Torretta's two undefeated seasons in 1991 and '92. Dorsey's 38-2 record came with a group that would wind up producing 19 first-rounders between 2001-2004, including three receivers (Santana Moss, Reggie Wayne and Andre Johnson), two tight ends (Jeremy Shockey and Kellen Winslow, Jr.), two offensive linemen (Bryant McKinnie and Vernon Carey) and a running back (Willis McGahee), not to mention another who became the NFL's highest-paid runner after going in the second round (Clinton Portis).

White had three receivers who were drafted on the first day in 2005, a Heisman runner-up in the backfield (Adrian Peterson), the first tackle drafted (Jammal Brown) last year and likely the first guard in 2006 (Davin Joseph).

Surrounded by that type of talent, almost any quarterback could be plugged in and do well. The problem with the Heisman Trophy is that too often it rewards an average quarterback on a great team instead of the greatest player regardless of what team he is on.

●----- The system

There are more mistakes made drafting quarterbacks than any other position, and it may be because it is the most challenging position to play in all of sports, requiring outstanding football intelligence and leadership capability that not all possess. However, seasoned scouts would tell you there is a lot more to it, involving the charting of passes, the type of throws a quarterback makes and the complexity of the offense he is running.

California head coach Jeff Tedford built a reputation for producing NFL quarterbacks, having played a part in developing six first-rounders: Trent Dilfer, Akili Smith, David Carr, Joey Harrington, Kyle Boller and Aaron Rodgers. Although it may be too early to fairly judge a number of them,

some scouts point out how none of them has truly panned out.

Why? Is Tedford such a fine teacher of mechanics that his pupils struggle in less rich learning environments? Some scouts think so and there may be some truth in it. The other truth, however, realized by veteran scouts who have charted Tedford's quarterbacks over the years, is that he does not ask his passers to make the progression reads and vertical throws necessary to thrive in the pros. His quarterbacks, as are signal-callers in the increasingly copied spread-option offense Urban Meyer popularized at Utah, are rarely asked to read more than a third of the field and tend to complete primarily short, dink-and-dunk passes that allow for quicker decisions to be made and more accuracy.

It has taken a long time and the struggles of many Tedford quarterbacks in the pros for scouts to realize his system does not promote the development of a quarterback and instead tends to hide a lot of their flaws. Great scouts can size up a player's ability in the context of their success.

Heisman Trophy-winning QB Andre Ware was drafted seventh overall in 1990 and David Klingler sixth overall in 1992. Neither ever amounted to anything in the pros. Playing in the run-and-shoot offense, they were allowed to make a lot of predetermined reads and knew where they were going to throw the ball before the snap — a far cry from what an NFL quarterback must be able to do in the way of reading coverages often disguised at the snap. It is the reason why the quarterbacks Mike Leach's wide-open, pass-happy offense featuring four- and five-receiver sets has produced in recent years at Texas Tech (Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons, Sonny Cumbie and Cody Hodges) have generated little interest from NFL teams.

The best scouts understand the framework in which players are operating and are quickly able to discern whether a player is a product of a system or a talent who can

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able to get his hands on the ball in college has a direct correlation in the pros. College players with ball skills and closing speed — arguably two of the most important traits for a cornerback — generally have success in the pros.

However, where the evaluation process can get tricky and fool scouts is in the production category. Fans look at all the success that some quarterbacks have in college, such as Gino Torretta and Ken Dorsey of Miami (Fla.) and Jason White of Oklahoma, and think they must be great quarterbacks. Why were none of them drafted before the seventh round despite being either a finalist or actual recipient of the Heisman Trophy? How could they be crowned the "most outstanding" player in college football and not be regarded as top prospects in the pros?

"They just didn't have the traits," Angelo said. "They were exemplary in college because you don't need to have great traits in college."

Scouts measure players against the toughest standards in the world. By pro standards, none of the aforementioned QBs had great arm strength. All three played on teams competing for national championships and had outstanding supporting casts that were more responsible than their own ability. The Hurricanes had 15 players

THE HYPE | IT'S IN PART WHY PLAYERS LIKE ANDY KATZENMOYER ARE OUT OF THE LEAGUE RIGHT NOW. THEIR EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT DID NOT PROGRESS THE WAY EVALUATORS EXPECTED IT TO.

THE TRAITS | DORSEY'S 38-2 RECORD CAME WITH A GROUP THAT WOULD WIND UP PRODUCING 19 FIRST-ROUNDERS BETWEEN 2001-2004

thrive in any scheme. They don't get caught up in deceptive statistics but instead concentrate on what a player can do.

●----- The hype

At the high school level, recruiting is more about hype, production and the referral system than thorough film study. College coaches do a lot of favors for high school coaches, signing their players when good relationships exist.

If the draft is an inexact process, high school recruiting is a crapshoot. Irv Favre had to fight for recruiters to take a look at his son because his team didn't pass a lot in high school and was primarily a running team. Only after another quarterback signed with Florida did a D-IA scholarship open for his son Brett at Southern Mississippi, the only program to offer him a scholarship. Syracuse was the only program willing to let Donovan McNabb play quarterback, with many, including his home-state University of Illinois, only electing to look at him as a defensive back.

One general manager who requested anonymity said, "I saw how recruiting was done when I worked at the college level. It is based on reputation, height-weight-speed and the big word — 'potential.' At the time, I was younger and not far removed from the game, and I remember thinking, 'There is something grossly wrong with the system here.' You have no idea how kids will mature physically, emotionally and intellectually."

It's in part why players like Andy Katzenmoyer and Cade McNown are out of the NFL right now. Their emotional and intellectual development did not progress the way evaluators expected it to.

Even in college and the pros, the hype machine works overdrive.

"All-Americans are picked by produc-

tion," Smith said. "Anyone who goes to the Pro Bowl goes on production. It's all about numbers. ... You can have average cornerbacks who go (to the Pro Bowl) at some point in their career because they had seven or eight picks and all of a sudden they get voted in. Well, maybe they really had three picks and the rest were deflections off helmets and shoulder pads. Now, right place, right time — absolutely. Do they have eight or nine picks? Absolutely. But are they a great player? No. And with guards and tackles, they will go year after year and they are average guys. That is the position where good players get overlooked, because the usual suspects get voted in because of their name and people getting caught up in their reputation. ... There are an awful lot of all-stars that are not going to all-star games or going to the Pro Bowl that are just championship-level players who are going to get you to the Super Bowl."

Average level of competition can produce unwarranted hype just as easily, even in big conferences. In recent years, Oregon State's Ken Simonton, California's J.J. Arrington and Washington State's Jerome Harrison have led the Pac-10 in rushing. Outside of the top-ranked USC Trojans, how good were the conference defenses on which they piled up yardage? Scouts contend they were very average.

What difference does it make? It allows some of the weaknesses of a runner with average vision and elusiveness like Arrington to be concealed. Many evaluators could easily be fooled by his production and believe in the hype, with Denny Green quickly citing his college production with excitement at last year's Combine. It's too early to say whether Arrington or Harrison will be able to produce in the pros, but Simonton never made it, Arrington has struggled mightily in his first year and many scouts believe Harrison will not fare much better.

●----- The upside

What is even more tricky is judging a player's potential and projecting how good he could be.

Evaluating collegiate talent is a projection business. As opposed to pro scouts who are evaluating NFL players on an equal playing field across the same level of competition, a big part of the job of a team's college road scouts is to figure out how good a player could be, or how high his ceiling is in relation to his floor — what could be expected minimally from a player.

Big cornerbacks typically do not run very well and may have a limited ceiling, never able to become a true shutdown No. 1 corner. But if he is physical enough to play safety, like Rod Woodson and many great corners have done late in their careers, scouts will put a higher grade on his ability with the rationale that, at worst, he could be

a great safety.

Oregon State CB Brandon Browner and Michigan S Ernest Shazor were two players who, surprisingly to many fans, were not drafted at all after declaring early for the draft. Part of the reason they slipped was because teams were trying to project Browner, after he ran poorly at the Combine, to safety, and Shazor to linebacker.


"Anytime you have to project a player," Angelo said, "obviously his chances for success go down greatly. To me, it's harder to draft."

The old scouting adage that "big players must prove they cannot play and little players must prove they can" is still widely believed in the NFL. Teams continue to be enamored and take chances on workout warriors who run like deer or jump out of the gym.

Just as easily as scouts get caught up in workout results at the Combine, as when Mike Mamula jumped through the roof, scouts get too turned off for the wrong reasons. Some of the biggest mistakes are made in scouting because teams overvalue a player's size. Tom Brady looked so skinny and frail after taking his shirt off at the East-West Shrine game that he slid down draft boards. Jason Taylor was "too skinny" to play defensive end. Zach Thomas was "too short" to play linebacker and Dwight Freeney too short to play end. Brady was a sixth-rounder, Taylor third, Thomas fifth and Freeney first.

The Colts were widely criticized at the time for selecting an undersized pass rusher so high, but in hindsight, it may have been the best pick in the draft given how he has fit in Tony Dungy's defense. One of the scouting tenets of Colts president Bill Polian is to match players to his coach and his schemes, and it has proven widely successful. Where many teams downgrade a player for his size, Polian overlooks it for the Colts if the player has great speed.

●----- The verdict

There are many reasons why great college players don't turn out to be great pros. Many simply do not have pro traits to translate their college production. Others are overhyped in college and really are not as good as advertised, playing with either a strong supporting cast or in a great college system. Teams that undervalue football character and place too much stock in a player's measurables instead of focusing on instincts have tended to make the most mistakes. But given all the uncontrollable circumstances surrounding the game, including injuries that have made a can't-miss product like Courtney Brown appear to be a bust, scouting will always be an inexact science. The teams that have done the best jobs drafting have successfully been able to measure a player's heart, passion and football temperament and have matched talent to their schemes. 



LIVIO SUAREZ



Analyzing

NORM HALL

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he X-factor every year hovers around one key group — underclassmen. NFL scouts are not allowed to evaluate them until they officially declare, so as much as they may try to be aware of them, teams are usually left scrambling to evaluate underclassmen relatively late in the process, making the selection of juniors one of the most mistake-prone and regrettable decisions teams usually make.

From Andre Ware to Todd Marinovich to Ryan Leaf, the decisions teams wish they could have back continue to mount as immature underclassmen bounce out of the league as often as, if not more often than, they become impact players. One college scouting director said teams really have to watch every single one of an underclassman's games to make a true eval-

uation because there is so much projection involved. When it comes to evaluating juniors, scouts must hedge on a player having a higher ceiling than a fifth-year senior because he is so young from the standpoint of mental and physical development. Not all underclassmen, however, have the discipline and maturity to ever reach their ceiling.

Special eligibility has been granted to underclassmen dating back many years, according to NFL player personnel director Joel Bussert, but it was not until 1990 that the league revised draft eligibility rules to allow juniors to become eligible if they first renounced their collegiate eligibility.

In 2004, those rules were interpreted to allow for third-year sophomores to be granted entry into the draft after Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald, with a year of prep school to his credit, was allowed admission into the draft as a third-year sophomore. The same year, 20-year-old Ohio State sopho-

more RB Maurice Clarett, disgruntled with NCAA rules that left him suspended for a season, decided to challenge the NFL's three-year rule and initially won in court, with the NFL being ruled in violation of antitrust laws.

USC sophomore WR Mike Williams subsequently threw his name into the draft at the eleventh hour, but both were barred from entering the draft after the ruling was appealed by the NFL and overturned, eliminating concerns of NFL front offices and scouts who would then become responsible for evaluating far more players at earlier stages.

With the ruling upheld, scouts' concerns have been alleviated for now,

**MOST
MISTAKES
TEND TO BE
MADE ON
JUNIOR
CLASS**

Larry
FITZGERALD

underclassmen



DAVID GRAHAM

Andre
WARE



ICON SPORTS

Maurice
CLARETT



SCOTT WALLEN / PROCASE

Mike
WILLIAMS



JEFF FISHER

Alan
FANECA

but there is no denying that the talent level in college football has been watered down, as college football's stars increasingly turn to the NFL early to cash in on their success rather than risk injury. It is not to the point of the NBA, where colleges are lucky if they get one year out of a superstar, but even the NBA finally instituted an age limit (19) for next year's draft to deter young players from making the bad decisions so many have made.

The reality, after analyzing underclassmen who have entered the draft early dating back to 1990, is that juniors, except in rare instances, can almost always benefit from another year in school. From 1990 to 2005, of all Division I-A players, 540 players declared early, with 393, or 72.8 percent, being drafted, and 27.2 percent going undrafted.

Teams drafting a junior thrower have tended to regret the decision. Running backs declare early more than any other position, but not often do they pan out outside the first round. Even in the first round, the success rate is average, with less than a fourth of first-rounders having earned a Pro Bowl invite and more bouncing out of the league within five years. Drafting a young tight end in the first round, for teams patient with injuries, has proven fruitful. Receivers, characteristically selfish prima-donnas

craving attention in today's game, have really struggled to learn the nuances of the game, with work ethic being a very critical factor to possess for junior pass catchers to succeed. Only two of 31 underclassman tackles have earned Pro Bowl honors, and both were drafted with top-six picks. Alan Faneca was the only junior guard ever drafted in the first round. Center is the one

position where early entrants have made wise decisions, perhaps reflective of the intelligence needed to play the position. All seven who left

early fit into the first day, and while the jury is still out on some young players, almost all have matured into solid starters.

On defense, drafting a lineman has been a hit-or-miss proposition, with teams needing to be very patient with tackles. Young defensive ends typically have been able to contribute earlier. History shows teams have tended to make mistakes on linebackers by undervaluing the importance of intelligence. And in the secondary, players have tended to struggle if they are undersized. Even though confidence is a desired trait in a cornerback, and teams want them to have a swagger, separating confident players from thugs and properly identifying a defensive back's character must be a priority in order to avoid regrets.

Following is a more thorough breakdown of how juniors have affected the draft at each position since 1990.

Quarterbacks

Five times a junior quarterback was drafted first overall, beginning with Jeff George in 1990 and following with Drew Bledsoe (1993), Tim Couch (1999), Michael Vick (2001) and Alex Smith (2005). Quarterback, being a more cerebral position than any other on the field, is one where players could definitely benefit by returning to school for another year, with there being nearly as many hits as misses in the first round. Only five of 28 went undrafted, the least of any position, and none of the nine who were drafted after Round One have gone on to have distin-

guished careers, meaning at least half would have been better-served in school. Of the 14 first-rounders, there have been twice as many busts (Ryan Leaf, Tim Couch, Todd Marinovich, Tommy Maddox, Heath Shuler, Andre Ware) as Pro Bowlers (Michael Vick, Drew Bledsoe and Trent Dilfer), making the selection of a junior thrower a risky move.

Running backs

More running backs have declared early for the draft than any other position, and perhaps wisely so, with their bodies being subjected to the most clean hits and their earning power declining after age 30. Including fullbacks since 1990, 122 runners have declared for the draft. Twenty-two, or 18 percent, were drafted in the first round

and 53 — 43 percent — were selected on the first day. Forty players — 33 percent — went undrafted.

Ki-Jana Carter, who became the highest junior runner ever selected when he was taken first overall in 1995, never panned out due to injuries, nor did Curtis Enis (fifth overall), Lawrence Phillips (sixth), Leonard Russell (14th) or Rashaan Salaam (21st). However, Marshall Faulk (second), Edgerin James (fourth), Jerome Bettis (10th) and Emmitt Smith (17th) all have had fine careers. There were some steals to be had after the first round, including Corey Dillon (43rd), Clinton Portis (51st), Curtis Martin (74th), Ahman Green (76th) and Rudi Johnson (100th), but those were the only five of the other 100 not taken in Round One to have made a strong impact — making

By
NOLAN NAWROCKI



TONY GONZALEZ | CHIEFS

juniors a very risky proposition beyond the first round.

Tight ends

Since 1990, 22 tight ends have entered the draft early, and the results have bordered on the extreme, with nine fitting into the first round and eight going undrafted. The other five fit between rounds 3-6. Of the early entrants who have been drafted, almost all have performed at high levels in the pros, from Tony Gonzalez (1997) to Todd Heap (2001) to Jeremy Shockey (2002) and Dallas Clark (2003), although injuries have taken a toll on almost all early picks thrust into action immediately. Even though the latest mishap occurred off the field, injuries could ruin the career of Kellen Winslow, drafted sixth overall in 2004, the highest a tight end has ever been drafted, and injuries ended the career of

Johnny Mitchell prematurely. Shockey, Clark, Heap, Bubba Franks and Jeramy Stevens have all been hurt. Heath Miller entered the league last year with big injury concerns. The only one not to have missed time is Gonzalez.

Receivers

Eighty-eight receivers have declared early and 26 of them — or 30 percent — fit into the first round. Drafting a junior receiver early has proven to be a hit-or-miss move, however. For every Pro Bowler, such as Herman Moore, Randy Moss and Curtis Conway, there has been a Yatil Green, Thomas Lewis or Freddie Mitchell. The highest ever drafted — 2003 second overall pick Charles Rogers — has been an utter disappointment thus far, and a good number fit the same category as chronic, injury-prone underachievers with disciplinary

issues. Donté Stallworth, David Terrell, David Boston, Koren Robinson and David Boston all fit this description. Each has peaked at different times, but consistency has been a big issue for many, as supremely talented as they may be.

Offensive tackles

Of the 31 tackles who have entered the draft early, more than a third (11) have fit into the first round and more than half (17) on the first day. However, nearly as many (14) had to wait until the first day passed to hear their name called, and eight of those never heard it at all. Of the 12 drafted after Round One, only Marvel Smith (second) and Jon Runyan (fourth) have been solid starters. Two of the game's best today — Orlando Pace (the only junior tackle ever drafted first overall) and Walter Jones (sixth overall) — were early entrants. Bob Whitfield (eighth), Willie Anderson (10th), Korey Stringer (24th) and Blake Brockermeyer (29th) were very good in their prime. Mo Collins (23rd), Trezelle Jenkins (31st) and Kenyatta Walker (14th) have not fared as well, and the jury is still out on Shawn Andrews and Kwame Harris.

Offensive guards

Only 13 guards have entered early since 1990, with just one — Alan Faneca (26th) — squeezing into the back of the first round in 1998. Five others have fit into the second round — Ed King (29th in 1991), Chris Snee (34th in 2004), Tونی Fonoti (39th in 2002), Justin Smiley (46th in 2004) and Cosey Coleman (51st in 2000). Three others were drafted on the second day and four went undrafted, with 1998 fifth-rounder Benji Olson being the only Day Two selection to develop into a longtime starter. With guards rarely being drafted in the first round, rare is the case when it is wise for them to leave early.

Centers

Seven centers have declared for the draft in the last 16 years, beginning with Jeremy Newberry (58th) and Olin Kreutz (64th) in 1998. Three fit into the first round — Damien Woody (17th in 1999), Jeff Faine (21st in 2003) and Chris Spencer (26th in 2005). The two others, Dominic Raiola (2001) and Richie Incognito (2005), fit into the first day, with Incognito, who had serious character questions, even fitting into the first day. Centers who have left early have fared well.

Defensive ends

Forty-five have declared early since 1990, with more than a third (17) being selected in the first round and 60 percent (27) fitting into the first day. Eleven went undrafted and seven were taken on the second day. Of those 18, only 1992 fourth-rounder Keith Hamilton (who also played defensive tackle) has had a notable career. Only six of 17 first-rounders have netted Pro Bowl appearances — Joe Johnson (13th overall), Julius Peppers (second), Sean Gilbert (third), Peter Boulware (fourth), Terrell Suggs (10th) and Trevor Pryce (28th). On the flip side were Mike Mamula (seventh), Alonzo Spellman (22nd) and

By the numbers

UNDERCLASSMEN HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE DRAFT SINCE THE 1990s. BELOW YOU WILL FIND A BREAKDOWN OF HOW EACH POSITION HAS FARED IN TERMS OF JUNIORS BEING DRAFTED SINCE 1990.

◀ (LEFT) CLEVELAND'S JEFF FAINE WAS ONE OF SEVEN JUNIOR CENTERS DRAFTED, ALL GOING ON THE FIRST DAY

POS	TOTAL	FIRST ROUND	ROUNDS 1-3	ROUNDS 4-12*	UNDRAFTED
QB	28	14 [50%]	17 [60.7%]	6 [21.4%]	5 [17.9%]
RB	122	22 [18%]	53 [43.4%]	29 [23.8%]	40 [32.8%]
WR	88	26 [29.5%]	49 [55.7%]	17 [19.3%]	22 [25%]
TE	22	9 [40.9%]	10 [45.5%]	4 [18.1%]	8 [36.4%]
OT	31	11 [35.5%]	17 [54.8%]	6 [19.4%]	8 [25.8%]
OG	13	1 [7.7%]	6 [46.1%]	3 [23.1%]	4 [30.8%]
C	7	3 [42.9%]		7 [100%]	
DE	45	17 [37.8%]	27 [60%]	7 [15.6%]	11 [24.4%]
DT	37	16 [43.2%]	21 [56.8%]	6 [16.2%]	10 [27%]
LB	45	15 [33.3%]	27 [60%]	6 [13.3%]	12 [26.7%]
DB	95	25 [26.3%]	47 [49.5%]	21 [22.1%]	27 [28.4%]
ST	7	1 [14.3%]	2 [28.6%]	5 [71.4%]	

* — The NFL draft shifted from 12 to eight rounds in 1993, and then from eight to seven rounds in 1994.

SCOTT WALLEN / PROCASE (FAINE)

Dimitrius Underwood (29th), but in general, junior first-round defensive ends have been able to contribute readily.

Defensive tackles

Thirty-seven defensive tackles have declared for the draft early, with two being drafted first overall in the early 1990s — Washington's Steve Emtman in 1992 and Ohio State's Dan Wilkinson in 1994. Injuries ended Emtman's career before it really could get going, and Wilkinson, despite having a long career, never quite lived up to expectations. Injuries and immaturity have defined the early entrants at this position, with Darrell Russell, Albert Haynesworth, Tim Bowens, Chester McGlockton, Gerard Warren, Ryan Pickett and Johnathan Sullivan all taking time to develop and largely underachieving once they entered the league. The same holds true further down the list, with many tackles slipping to later rounds because of those types of concerns. With big-bodied run pluggers not easy to find, juniors will continue to be drafted early, but they, as much as any position, can break hearts and force coaches to pack their bags — part of the reason the draft status of defensive linemen in general seems to have fallen in recent years. Teams need to do their due diligence before making a huge investment at this position.

Linebackers

Forty-five junior linebackers have been drafted, with a third (15) fitting into Round One. Three of them have earned Pro Bowl



CHAMP BAILEY | BRONCOS

honors, including Junior Seau, Ray Lewis and LaVar Arrington. Three — Lamar Lathon, Marco Coleman and Jevon Kearse — were moved to end in the pros and had fine careers. But a recurring problem with many, despite being top-of-the-line athletes, is that their intelligence failed to match their physical talents and they could not handle the complexity of the pro game. Keith McCants and Andy Katzenmoyer are classic examples, and it shouldn't have been difficult to figure out with Katzenmoyer failing art classes in college. Even Seau needed a lot of help getting lined up early in his career.

When it comes to juniors, intelligence needs to be analyzed as closely as athletic ability.

Defensive backs

A total of 95 defensive backs have declared early, with nearly half (47) fitting into the first day and more than a quarter of them (25) getting selected in the first round. Many have turned out to be great picks, with Mark Carrier and Roy Williams earning Pro Bowl nods at the safety position and Ty Law, Shawn Springs, Charles Woodson and Champ Bailey at corner. Lack of size has been an issue with those who have not lived up to expectations. Of the first-rounders, Devin Bush and Darryl Williams were small for the safety position as were Chris Canty, R.W. McQuarters, Jamar Fletcher and Phillip Buchanon, and it could be argued that character concerns have been a bigger problem. More value has come in the second and third rounds, with Lawyer Milloy, Dré Bly, Deon Grant and Ken Hamlin coming in the second and Ronde Barber, Mike McKenzie and Adrian Wilson in the third. When it comes to sizing up junior cornerbacks, history shows that teams better do their homework on a player's character before making a big investment.

Specialists

Of the seven specialists who have declared early for the NFL, only two — PK Sebastian Janikowski and P Chris Gardocki — had a legitimate reason to leave school early, and both were drafted on the first day.

ANTONIO GATES RODNEY HARRISON
JAKE DELHOMME JDE HORN
CHARLES TILLMAN TERRELL OWENS
D COLEMAN ASON TAYLOR MICHAEL

Sleeper watch

NFL scouts better not hit the snooze button on these players

T rue sleepers in the eyes of NFL scouts are guys that all but one scout knows about. In this day and age, there are very, very few of those with how far word of mouth travels. To the fan of the draft, a sleeper is a player the general public typically does not know much about. They hail from small schools and have not received the publicity normally associated with premier Division I-A programs. All but two of the players mentioned below hail from lesser-known programs out of the national spotlight. In some cases, players at elite programs are stuck behind very talented players on the depth chart and see little action — what scouts refer to as “big-school sleepers” — and are waiting to be discovered.

By
**NOLAN
NAWROCKI**

QB-ATH **BARRICK NEALY** | Texas State

Nealy made some strides as a senior in his decision-making, throwing for 2,875 yards, and has intriguing measurables at nearly 6-4, 225 pounds with 4.6 speed. However, the University of Houston transfer was most electric carrying the ball, rushing for more than 1,000 yards and 13 TDs and hurting opponents more with his feet than his arm. If he insists on being a quarterback, he may have to go north of the border to the CFL, but as an athlete, he has shown the run strength and playmaking ability to play on Sundays.

QB **ERIK MEYER** | Eastern Washington

Drafted by the Cincinnati Reds out of high school in 2001 with a 95 m.p.h. fastball, Meyer is a strong-armed gunslinger with the moxie and improvisational skills to make plays when the pocket breaks down. A two-time All-Big Sky Offensive MVP, he was awarded the Walter Payton Award as the nation's best Division I-AA player in 2005. He is undersized at 6-1½, 215 pounds, he's not a great athlete and has not faced top competition, but with a career 5-1 TD-INT ratio and 65.7 percent competition percentage and intangibles to match, he should get a shot to work his magic in an NFL training camp, even if it has to come after stops in

OSU UNMENYIORA

BRIAN WATKINS
CHRIS WATKINS
ADAM VINATIE
LARRY ALLEN
MIKE WANLE
STRAHAN



BARRICK NEALY | TEXAS STATE



DERRICK ROSS | TARLETON STATE



DONALD PENN | UTAH STATE

the CFL or Arena League.

FB **NICK HARTIGAN** | Brown

Very smart, hardworking college running back who projects to fullback in the pros. Brown rode his back to its first-ever outright Ivy League title in 2005, as he rushed for a school-record 1,727 yards — second best in Ivy League history — and finished his career with nearly every school rushing record. Hartigan is a quick study who should be able to learn how to block quickly if he can bulk up and settle for a no-glory role.

RB **DERRICK ROSS** | Tarleton State

Has run for more than 1,500 yards each of the past two years and his tackle-breaking ability and natural run instincts stood out at the Division II level. Based on talent, some team could draft him late, but he was a no-show at the Cactus Bowl and his lack of discipline off the field will deter teams.

WR **MILES AUSTIN** | Monmouth (N.J.)

The first Monmouth player ever invited to the NFL Combine, Austin may have to follow in the path of fellow Garfield (N.J.) High School alum Wayne Chrebet and take a long route to prove he can play in the pros. He

doesn't get great separation and is not very creative after the catch, but he could wind up playing an Eric Johnson or Boo Williams type of H-back role.

RS-WR **TOBY ZEIGLER** | Northwestern State (La.)

Speed was eye-opening at the Las Vegas All-American Classic after finishing career as the school's career leader in receptions, kick-off returns, kick returns and all-purpose yardage while also erasing NFL All-Pro returner Terrence McGee's records in punt-return yardage. Best years came early in his career. Is every bit as good of a returner as Ravens All-Pro B.J. Sams was in college.

TE **DANIEL FELS** | Cal-Davis

Not as tall or fast as UCLA's Marcedes Lewis but is a developmental prospect some scouts think could turn into a similar type of player. Has a frame to be 260 pounds with big hands and can snag the ball out of the air. May be drafted late after showing well at the East-West Shrine game.

OG **WILLIE COLON** | Hofstra

Bad-bodied right tackle who blocks mostly from a two-point stance in a shotgun offense and is very raw as a run blocker. However, it's

much more difficult to teach a player how to pass-protect than lock on and drive a defender off the ball, and Colon is an experienced pass blocker with the agility to move his feet, slide, adjust, redirect and square up defenders. He has nice feet and anchor strength and is the best offensive lineman to come out of Hofstra since DeMingo Graham, an undrafted free agent in 1998 who wound up sticking in the league for seven years with the Chargers, Texans and Cowboys and finished starting 38-of-60 games in which he played. Needs to move inside in the pros.

OT **ALBERT STINSON** | Jackson State

Did not play in 2004 because of academics but has frame and quick feet of an NFL left tackle, with measurables (6-4½, 321, 5.14) to intrigue teams enough to invite him to camp.

OT **DONALD PENN** | Utah State

May not look the part, but no one could get past him in the Hula Bowl, and he caught the eyes of scouts all week by stoning pass rushers with a strong punch.

DE **BRANDON GUILLORY** | Louisiana-Monroe

Entered the program as a walk-on receiver and made a mark on special teams and then as



STEVE WILLIAMS | NW MISSOURI STATE



ANTWAN MARSH | PIKEVILLE COLLEGE



A.J. SCHABLE | SOUTH DAKOTA

a linebacker before being moved to end. Coaches have clocked him as low as the 4.4s in the 40, and he plays like a terror off the edge.

DE A.J. SCHABLE | South Dakota

Moved from defensive tackle to end midway through senior year and took the small North Central Conference by storm, registering 19 sacks to lead all of Division II. He may not work out the greatest or run a great 40, but his production will warrant an NFL opportunity.

DE JASON HATCHER | Grambling State

A 6-5, 285-pounder with verified 4.8 speed, Hatcher showed great strength at the point and has the size, arm length and natural strength that is in heavy demand in "30" fronts. Can be a 4-3 base end or five-technique in a 3-4 defense.

DT STEVE WILLIAMS | Northwest Missouri St.

Played with a sports hernia injury as a senior and did not look stellar. Quit halfway through the season. Hit roadblocks in previous stops at Indiana and Northern Illinois. However, after arriving at the Las Vegas All-American Classic, he showed scouts he could dominate like his press clippings said he could when he was a highly recruited stud coming

out of high school. Really looks the part and should get drafted on the second day as an explosive three-technique.

OLB MARCELLO CHURCH | Florida State

One of only two players on this list from a Division I-A program, Church is what scouts would call a big-school sleeper. Due to the caliber of athletes at Florida State, he didn't start and spent his career backing up A.J. Nicholson. He is not without holes — intelligence is an issue, and breaking his fibula and ankle in the ACC title game Dec. 3 does not help matters, but Church would have started for a lot of teams and grades out as a draftable talent. He's a stellar special-teams player who, at the least, could make a living covering kicks and doing the dirty work he mastered for the Seminoles.

S REED DOUGHTY | Northern Colorado

Has been told he was too slow, too small and everything in between, but throughout his career, all he has ever been is too productive and scouts would be ignorant to overlook a good football player like him. Very smart, tough and hard-nosed and has a chance despite speed limitations.

S ANTWAN MARSH | Pikeville (Ky.)

Measurables (6-2½, 219, 4.42) alone will

attract interest. Has lined up at outside linebacker, free safety, receiver and as a returner and is a shredded physical specimen. The NAIA All-America safety has a ways to go before his instincts catch up with his athletic ability, but he still led the team in tackles (70) and finished second on the team in all-purpose yards (679) with contributions in all phases.

CB CLETIS GORDON | Jackson State

Is not a hitter and plays so soft that he runs out of bounds after interceptions to avoid being hit, but he is somewhat similar to former North Carolina AT&T and current Giants CB Curtis DeLoatch and his triangle numbers (6-1½, 195, 4.56) and cover skills could draw some interest. Finished 2005 with four picks and has some return ability.

CB RAY WILLIAMS | Purdue

A big-school sleeper who moved from receiver to cornerback halfway through the season to little fanfare and stepped into the starting lineup after one week of practice and held his own. Still very raw in his pedal and transition, but has size and speed (6-1, 200, 4.4) that cannot be taught and could find his way into a camp as a developmental project.

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The draft became more interesting when Vince Young decided to leave Texas early, and he will be the wild card in this draft, capable of unseating Reggie Bush from the top spot if the Texans choose to truly start over. In all, PFW projects 13 juniors to be drafted in the first round, with more potentially rising after all the information is in on the youngsters. With nine of those 13 expected to be drafted in the top 16, the elite talent once again will derive from the junior class.

PHOTO BY JAMES D. SMITH



VINCE YOUNG | TEXAS



1

HOUSTON TEXANS

REGGIE BUSH | RB | USC [JR.]

► If they remain committed to David Carr, their choice is simple. Could trade.



2

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

MATT LEINART | QB | USC

► Would bring savvy, smarts and leadership to a team in need of direction.



3

TENNESSEE TITANS

VINCE YOUNG | QB | TEXAS [JR.]

► Could prepare to take over for his mentor and father figure, Steve McNair.



4

NEW YORK JETS

D'BRICKASHAW FERGUSON | OT | VIRGINIA

► Franchise left tackles are not easy to find. Could anchor line for 15 years.



5

GREEN BAY PACKERS

MARIO WILLIAMS | DE | NORTH CAROLINA ST. [JR.]

► Sorely in need of a premier pass rusher, Williams makes back 7 better.



6

OAKLAND RAIDERS

A.J. HAWK | LB | OHIO STATE

► One of the safest picks in the draft, Hawk would fill a pressing need.



7

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

MICHAEL HUFF | CB | TEXAS

► The best defensive back in the draft could solve a lot of problems on "D."



8

BUFFALO BILLS

HALOTI NGATA | DT | OREGON [JR.]

► A massive, strong and powerful interior force to anchor the defense.



9

DETROIT LIONS

JAY CUTLER | QB | VANDERBILT

► Who better to begin Rod Marinelli era than perhaps the next Brett Favre?



10

ARIZONA CARDINALS

VERNON DAVIS | TE | MARYLAND [JR.]

► Explosive difference-maker too talented to get out of the Top 10.



11

ST. LOUIS RAMS

ERNIE SIMS | OLB | FLORIDA STATE [JR.]

► An explosive, impact player who brings energy to the Rams' defense.



12

CLEVELAND BROWNS

BRODRICK BUNKLEY | DT | FLORIDA STATE

► Can be the rock of the defense and will make Cleveland's LBs better.



13

BALTIMORE RAVENS

WINSTON JUSTICE | OT | USC [JR.]

► Very raw, rare athlete who can be groomed to replace Jonathan Ogden.



14

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

CHAD GREENWAY | OLB | IOWA

► A perfect fit for a penetrating, one-gap defense, Greenway could start now.



15

ATLANTA FALCONS

LAURENCE MARONEY | RB | MINNESOTA [JR.]

► A zone-running, featured back perfectly tailored for Falcons' ground game.



16

MIAMI DOLPHINS

ANTONIO CROMARTIE | CB | FLORIDA STATE [JR.]

► Is too big, too fast and has too much upside to fall too far in this draft.

DRAFT

By NOLAN NAWROCKI

17 MINNESOTA VIKINGS
D'OWELL JACKSON | LB | MARYLAND
 ▶ Very athletic, instinctive and versatile LB could be Vikings' Derrick Brooks.

18 DALLAS COWBOYS
SANTONIO HOLMES | WR | OHIO STATE [JR.]
 ▶ Similar to former OSU WR Terry Glenn and could be groomed to replace him.

19 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS
DONTE WHITNER | S | OHIO STATE [JR.]
 ▶ A difference-making ballhawk who can start right away and become All-Pro.

20 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
MATHIAS KIWANUKA | DE | BOSTON COLLEGE
 ▶ Long, rangy pass rusher can bring much-needed heat off the edge.

21 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
KAMERION WIMBLEY | OLB | FLORIDA STATE
 ▶ Brings great size, athleticism, intelligence, versatility and top character.

22 DENVER BRONCOS
TAMBA HALI | DE | PENN STATE
 ▶ Havoc-wrecker could be groomed behind former PSU DE Courtney Brown.

23 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
KELLY JENNINGS | CB | MIAMI (FLA.)
 ▶ An elite cover corner is needed to win in a conference with Steve Smith.

24 CINCINNATI BENGALS
GABE WATSON | DT | MICHIGAN
 ▶ Strong, powerful space-eater who needs tough love from Bengals coaches.

25 NEW YORK GIANTS
ASHTON YUBOTY | CB | OHIO STATE [JR.]
 ▶ Big, physical, young OSU cornerbacks have a strong track record in pros.

26 CHICAGO BEARS
MARCEDES LEWIS | TE | UCLA
 ▶ An athletic, pass-catching threat can open up the Bears' stagnant offense.

27 CAROLINA PANTHERS
LENDALE WHITE | RB | USC [JR.]
 ▶ A big bruiser is needed to play John Fox-style, smash-mouth football.

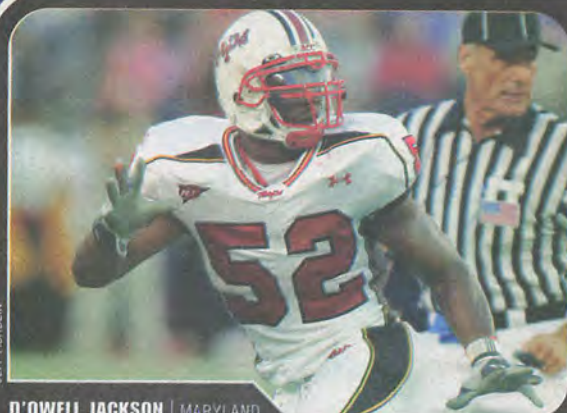
28 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
JIMMY WILLIAMS | CB-FS | VIRGINIA TECH
 ▶ Size, toughness and versatility could suit Jaguars defense well.

29 DENVER BRONCOS
DAVIN JOSEPH | OG | OKLAHOMA
 ▶ Big, square-cut zone blocker makes the Broncos' backfield more explosive.

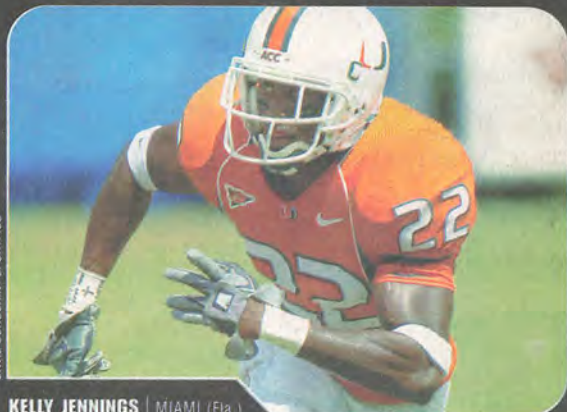
30 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
DeANGELO WILLIAMS | RB | MEMPHIS
 ▶ Finding replacement for Edgerrin James looks imminent.

31 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
PARYS HARALSON | DE | TENNESSEE
 ▶ Has the most explosive take-off of any pass rusher in the draft.

32 PITTSBURGH STEELERS
NICK MANGOLD | C | OHIO STATE
 ▶ Need to begin thinking about replacing aging veteran Jeff Hartings.



D'OWELL JACKSON | MARYLAND



KELLY JENNINGS | MIAMI (Fla.)



MARCEDES LEWIS | UCLA



PARYS HARALSON | TENNESSEE

JEFF FISHER

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

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OVER

NOLAN NAWROCKI GIVES US A POSITION-BY-POSITION LOOK

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN (REGGIE BUSH & VINCE YOUNG) / DAVID DUROCHIK-SPORTPICS (SANTONIO HOLMES & MATT LEINART)

The 2006 NFL draft is star-studded at the top with elite talent, including what project to be at least four impact players in Vince Young, Reggie Bush, Mario Williams and D'Brickashaw Ferguson — the first three of whom are juniors.

Every position, with the exception of guards and centers, improved with the early entry of juniors.

The QB class went from average to good, RBs from very average to outstanding, WRs from poor to weak, TEs weak to solid and OTs from good to great.

Defensively, linebackers were not affected heavily by juniors, with the quality being much stronger at the OLB position than inside. Juniors changed the DL class from average to good and the secondary from solid to good, greatly improving the depth at both safety and cornerback.

Juniors also supplied some very exciting returners, but with Colorado PK Mason Crosby deciding to stay in school, there are no first-day kickers or punters available in this draft.

■ Quarterbacks

The senior class is not exceptional, but the early entry of Texas QB Vince Young made it solid. Three quarterbacks could be taken in the top 10 for the first time since the all-star class of 1999, with USC's Matt Leinart and Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler joining Young at the top. Young is the most physically gifted all-around athlete, the best competitor and surprisingly was the most efficient college quarterback of the group last year despite his unorthodox, sidearm delivery. Cutler has the strongest arm and is the toughest. Physically, Leinart is not even as gifted as a healthy Charlie Whitehurst (Clemson), whom some

teams like as a late first-rounder, but the Trojans' southpaw has the most savvy and smarts and is the most NFL-ready mentally.

■ Running backs

This year's RB class may not have included a true first-round talent if three juniors had not entered early. For the second consecutive year, two runners from the same backfield should fit into the first round, with USC's Reggie Bush and LenDale White providing different flavors, much like Cadillac Williams and Ronnie Brown a year ago. A game-changing, big-play maker with Bush's versatility has not

come around since Marshall Faulk in 1994. White compares favorably to Jamal Lewis and provided the punch between the tackles. With both backs splitting carries, neither has truly been a featured back, but that is not to say they cannot do it. Minnesota's Laurence Maroney, likewise, played in a two-headed backfield throughout his career, but he shouldered a full workload as a junior and might be even faster than Bush as a breakaway threat. The lone senior who could fit into the first round is Memphis' DeAngelo Williams, a strong, thickly built Bryant Westbrook-type back who could be effective in a multi-featured role like Bush.

■ Tight ends

There may not have been a true first-round TE talent in this draft until Maryland's Vernon Davis declared. Davis is a more freakishly gifted athlete than Kellen Winslow was coming out in 2004, and is not only the top tight end, but the best receiving target in this draft, given the scarcity of talent at the WR position. UCLA's Mercedes Lewis, an athletic former hoopster who catches the ball well, and Colorado's Joe Klopfenstein, a raw pass catcher who can stretch the seam, are the top two seniors. Two other juniors — Georgia's Leonard Pope and Notre Dame's Anthony Fasano — both have good hands and upgraded the talent at tight end.

■ Wide receivers

After being spoiled with the early departure of big, playmaking receivers the past two years, the talent supply dried up this year, with Ohio State junior Santonio Holmes



AT THE TOP COLLEGE PROSPECTS FOR THE 2006 NFL DRAFT

DAVID DUROCHIK-SPORTSPICS (HALOTI NGATA) / BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN (MARIO WILLIAMS & JIMMY WILLIAMS)

being the only true first-round talent available. Miami (Fla.) speedster Sinorice Moss and Florida junior Chad Jackson would not fit into the first round in most years but could have a shot in this weak class.

■ Offensive linemen

Not since 1997 has an OT crop been as top-heavy and deep as it is this year, featuring two potential top-10 picks in Virginia's D'Brickshaw Ferguson and USC junior Winston Justice. Justice is not one-tenth the technician Ferguson is, but he is one of the most fluid, naturally athletic offensive linemen ever to enter the draft and is loaded with potential. Auburn's Marcus McNeill and Eric Winston of Miami (Fla.) entered the season as first-round cinches, but injuries limited the effectiveness of both and could have an impact on where both players are drafted. If a team needs a center, it better act early because the pickings are very slim after Ohio State's Nick Mangold and Oklahoma's Chris Chester. Both are good athletes, but Mangold is far more polished as a three-year starter. Chester is a converted tight end with eight career starts. Guards do not typically fit into the first round, but Oklahoma's Davin Joseph, who lined up at left tackle on a depleted offensive line last season, has a chance. With nearly a dozen college tackles being projected inside in the pros, including Georgia's Max Jean-Gilles, USC's "Deuce" Lutui and Boise State's Daryn Colledge, teams could find some help inside.

■ Defensive linemen

Defensive linemen have tended to slip in

the draft in recent years, but North Carolina State junior DE Mario Williams and Oregon junior DT Haloti Ngata — two rare physical specimens — will put an end to it this year and project as top-10 picks. There is a sizable drop-off in talent after both players, but the overall depth of both groups is good, with some starting-caliber pass rushers to be found in the third round. Florida State has a pair of excellent D-line prospects in NT Brodrick Bunkley and DE Kamerion Wimbley. Bunkley plays like Goliath. Wimbley is the most similar talent in this year's draft to DeMarcus Ware, the first linebacker drafted last year, and could project outside in a 3-4 defense. North Carolina State junior DT John McCargo and LSU DT Claude Wroten are both explosive three-techniques with a lot of raw talent.

■ Linebackers

This year's LB group could shape up to be stronger than the Class of 2000 that featured five first-rounders. There is considerably more talent outside, with Ohio State's A.J. Hawk, Iowa's Chad Greenway, Florida State junior Ernie Sims and Alabama's DeMeco Ryans all excellent prospects to fit into the first round. Hawk is the most consistent and instinctive, Greenway the most naturally athletic and best in coverage, Sims the most explosive hitter and Ryans the smartest. Others who possess great speed and athleticism, including Miami's Rocky McIntosh, Texas-El Paso's Thomas Howard and Ohio State's Bobby Carpenter, could receive late first-round consideration. At inside linebacker, Maryland's D'Qwell

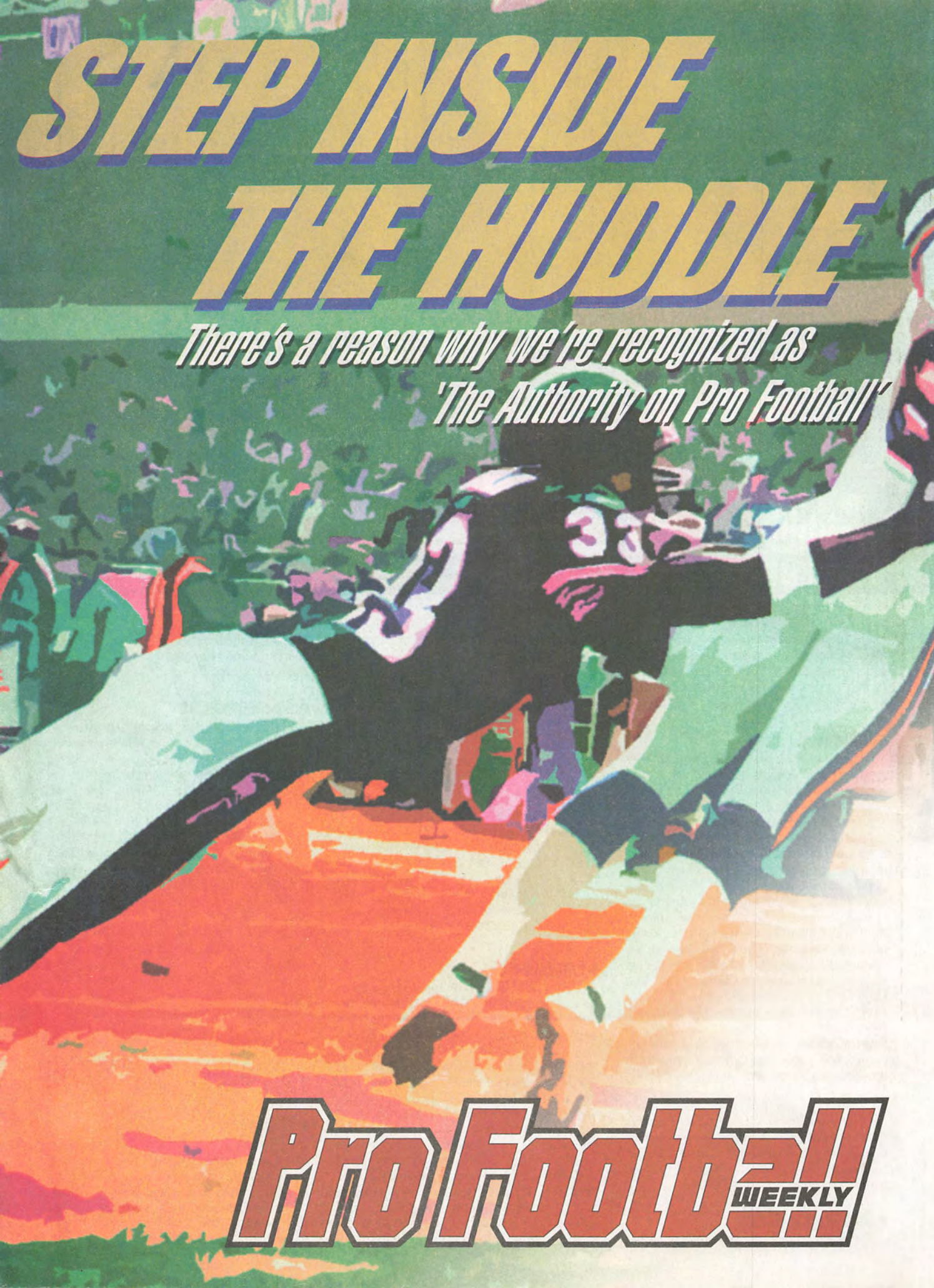
Jackson is the premier talent in the draft and shares some similarities with Jets LB Jonathan Vilma.

■ Defensive backs

The gem of this year's DB class is Texas' Michael Huff — an instinctive four-year starter who might be the best strong safety, free safety and cornerback in the draft. Kelly Jennings of Miami (Fla.) and Clemson's Tye Hill are the best pure cover corners in the draft, although both lack ideal size. Underclassmen affected the DB class more than any other position, with five young cornerbacks and five safeties potentially fitting into the first day. At corner, the junior class brings both great size and speed with Florida State's Antonio Cromartie, Ohio State's Ashton Youboty and Fresno State's Richard Marshall all capable of fitting into Round One. Safeties rarely fit into the first round unless they are special, and Ohio State junior SS Donte Whitner shows some special traits. South Carolina sophomore S Ko Simpson was the best center fielder in 2004, but Syracuse's Anthony Smith and Florida State's Pat Watkins challenged for that honor in '05.

■ Specialists

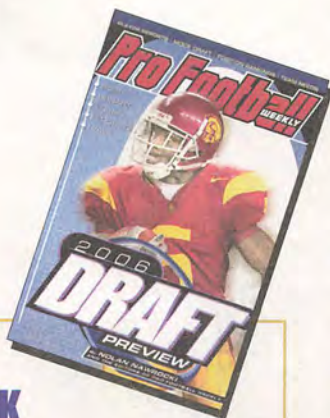
Devin Hester of Miami (Fla.), UCLA's Maurice Drew and Texas Christian's Cory Rodgers all could have benefited from another year in school and will make their primary contributions as returners. For the first time in a couple of years, no punter or kicker will be drafted on the first day.



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QB PROSPECTS

Any team with a high pick that needs a quarterback should start first evaluating the national championship game, which featured the top two quarterbacks in this draft, after Vince Young became the first Longhorn in the Mack Brown era to leave school early.

USC's Matt Leinart appears more NFL-ready, having played in a pro-style offense and shown great intelligence, accuracy and intangibles. He has shown the ability to respond under pressure and win big games, but facing the closest thing he has seen to an NFL secondary vs. Texas, he had a difficult time fitting the ball into tight spaces and making tough throws and finished in second place.

The difference in the game, and for the Longhorns all year, was Vince Young's playmaking ability. Not all scouts are convinced his unorthodox, sidearm release will translate easily to the pros, especially given the shotgun offense in which he played that facilitated making reads. But the NFL has never seen a player with his ability, and

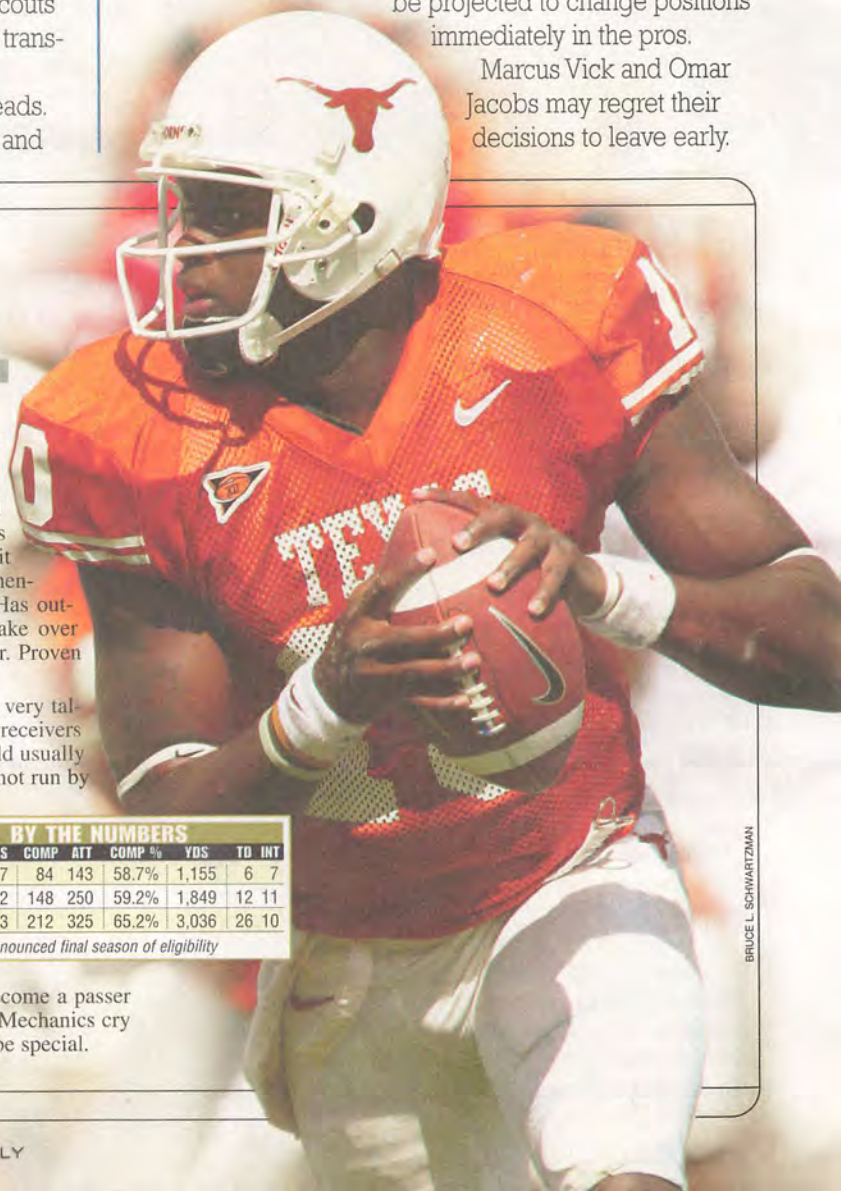
his upside is much, much higher than Leinart's.

Some scouts even like Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler better than Leinart and think he will prove to be a much better pro, with comparisons to Brett Favre being warranted.

Clemson's Charlie Whitehurst, like Cutler, is a four-year starter who is battle-tested and has had a lot thrown at him with multiple offensive coordinators. Alabama's Brodie Croyle and UAB's Darrell Hackney both have very strong arms and could fit into Day One, but they are undersized.

There are six throwers — Georgia's D.J. Shockley, Missouri's Brad Smith, Penn State's Michael Robinson, Texas A&M's Reggie McNeal, Central Michigan's Kent Smith and Virginia's Marques Hagans — who are better athletes than quarterbacks, and all but Shockley will likely be projected to change positions immediately in the pros.

Marcus Vick and Omar Jacobs may regret their decisions to leave early.



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

QB

#1

Vince
YOUNG

TEXAS

HT: 6-5e WT: 230e 40-YARD: 4.4e

UPSIDE: Has a very quick release and could put enough RPMs on the ball to make every NFL throw. Flicks the ball very effortlessly. Good accuracy and placement. Can hit receivers in stride. Has prototypical size and sees the field very well. Scans the field when protection breaks down. Sees and reacts to pressure and shows great poise in the face of it with the ability to beat it with both his arm and his legs. Tremendous run vision. Covers a lot of ground with long strides. Has outstanding competitive speed and has shown the ability to take over games. Great leadership ability. Extremely driven competitor. Proven winner. Very durable.

DOWNSIDE: Has a sidearm, push delivery. Played behind a very talented offensive line with a deep backfield and very talented receivers that allowed him to fling the ball up carelessly and they would usually come down with it. Plays in an unorthodox shotgun offense not run by any NFL team that allows him to make quick reads.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: If an NFL team can accept his Philip Rivers-like release for what it is, come to appreciate how quickly it helps him release the ball, and does not tinker with his mechanics, as Texas coaches finally learned not to do last year, Young can blossom as a passer. Has been mentored by Titans QB Steve McNair and has learned to become a passer first, runner second, as McNair successfully was able to do. Mechanics cry foul, but with a creative offensive coordinator, Young could be special.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2003	12/7	84	143	58.7%	1,155	6	7
2004	12/12	148	250	59.2%	1,849	12	11
2005	13/13	212	325	65.2%	3,036	26	10

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

QB

#2

Matt
LEINART

USC

HT: 6-4½ WT: 224 40-YARD: 4.9e



KOR

UPSIDE: Very cerebral with a tremendous understanding of a pro-style NFL offense and a great feel for where pressure is coming from. Was given more responsibility to call audibles as a senior. Plays with ice in his veins and has shown he can respond under pressure in big games. Throws a very catchable ball and anticipates when receivers are coming out of their breaks. Sees the whole field and can throw with accuracy short and deep. A proven winner and tough competitor who has come through in the clutch.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great arm strength or very good mobility and gets tracked down like he is moving in mud. Looked average vs. Notre Dame when he was heavily pressured and had to reset his feet to throw. Having played behind arguably the best offensive line in college football and with big, sure-handed receivers and maybe the best backfield in all of football, his production has been artificially inflated. Too skinny and has had two surgeries on his left (throwing) shoulder. Will require an offense to roll its protection to the right to protect his blind side.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Leinart does not have a top-tier arm and may never be an elite quarterback. The talent around him at USC could make a good quarterback look great, but scouts should not get too caught up in overanalyzing. Leinart is well-seasoned, very smart, savvy and reliable. He will contend for the top spot because of his intangibles, football intellect and accuracy.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	0/0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
2003	13/13	255	402	63.4%	3,556	38	9
2004	13/13	269	412	65.3%	3,322	33	6
2005	13/13	283	431	65.7%	3,815	28	8

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

QB

#3

Jay
CUTLER

VANDERBILT

HT: 6-2½ WT: 219 40-YARD: 4.8



UPSIDE: Big, strong, athletic and can make every NFL throw. Has a very good arm and the improvisational skills to get out of trouble and throw off-balance, on the move and without his feet set. Very tough four-year starter and three-time team captain who has only missed one game with injury despite taking a beating behind an average offensive line. Has a 400-pound bench press and will stand in the pocket and deliver. Understands his offense like a coach and showed great poise in two-minute situations, leading the Commodores to a last-minute win over Tennessee in his final game. Made his last season his best, nearly matching his career victory total (six) as a senior (five) and competing closely with tough SEC competition.

DOWNSIDE: Too confident in his arm strength and will make some bad decisions trying to force the ball into tight spots. Does not step into his throws and his mechanics could use refinement. Deep accuracy has been off and at times does not know his own arm strength. Owns an 11-34 mark as a starter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A true gunslinger with a cowboy's toughness, Cutler has drawn comparisons to Brett Favre from many long-time evaluators. Like Favre, with whom he shares almost identical size, Cutler cares more about winning than how he looks doing it. If he finally enters a situation where he has some time to throw and has weapons around him, he could be dangerous in the pros.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	11/11	103	212	48.6%	1,433	10	9
2003	12/12	187	327	57.2%	2,347	18	13
2004	11/11	147	241	61.0%	1,844	10	5
2005	11/11	273	462	59.1%	3,073	21	9

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

QB

#4

Charlie
WHITEHURST

CLEMSON

HT: 6-4½ WT: 223 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Has prototypical size and arm strength and an NFL pedigree, with a father who quarterbacked the Packers for eight years. Flicks the ball with ease and can make all the throws. Has a nice over-the-top release and can zip it with velocity. Tough and will play through injuries, having played the back half of his senior year with an injured throwing shoulder.

DOWNSIDE: Played in a simplified offense as a senior and did not make many NFL reads or throw vertically much. Has struggled to make progression reads and handle pressure in clutch situations. Failed to pull out victories in four close contests as a senior and could not finish. Played primarily in a shotgun offense and will need to adjust to taking snaps under center. Not a great decision-maker. Not very nifty-footed and does not show lateral quickness when the pocket breaks down. Does not feel pressure well and needs time to throw. Has small hands. Has had surgery on his throwing shoulder. Some scouts see him as a finished product with bad habits.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Whitehurst has the physical tools to really impress scouts in workouts and will stand out more throwing in shorts than he does on game tape. Scouts have called him a poor man's Drew Bledsoe but wonder, given that he has been groomed in a quarterback family his whole life, how much better he will ever get and question if he will ever be an elite quarterback.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	9/5	123	214	57.5%	1,554	10	6
2003	13/13	288	465	61.9%	3,561	21	13
2004	11/11	177	349	50.7%	2,067	7	17
2005	11/11	229	340	67.4%	2,483	11	10

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

QB

#5

Brodie
CROYLE

ALABAMA

HT: 6-2½ WT: 207 40-YARD: 4.9e



UPSIDE: Fine athlete with quick feet to shuffle around the pocket. The ball comes out of his hand fast and he can zip it. Has a quick release and good timing. Shows nice poise, can read blitzes and hit the hot route. Scans the field and can find secondary receivers. Tough. Smart. A winner. Carried the team to a lot of victories and overcame playing behind a very average offensive line. Knows how to manage a game and control the clock in two-minute situations. Showed nice arm strength at the Senior Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Durability is a major issue, with a litany of injuries on his knees, shoulders and elbow throughout his career dating back to high school. Can slip some pressure but is not very mobile and does not stand in the pocket. Has a lean build with narrow shoulders and could be susceptible to more injuries. Throws off his back foot when he is hurried and appears to brace himself for contact at times. Can improve his anticipation and ability to hit receivers out of breaks. Footwork could use some refinement.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Scouts would like him to be bigger physically. Croyle may not pass some physicals because of his checkered injury history and could slip considerably in the draft because of his brittle build. However, if he can add some muscle to his narrow frame, he has the intangibles to be a solid backup. He is not Jake Plummer, but there are some similarities.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	12/2	60	123	48.8%	1,046	5	5
2003	11/11	182	341	53.4%	2,303	16	13
2004	3/3	44	66	66.7%	534	6	0
2005	12/12	202	339	59.6%	2,499	14	4

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

QB

#6

Darrell
HACKNEY

UAB

HT: 5-11 WT: 245 40-YARD: 4.9e



UPSIDE: Very strong arm with a tight, snap release. Fires the ball hard and will have one of the strongest arms in the league next year. Can unload quickly and throw very pretty deep balls. Stands strong in the pocket, is able to sidestep and make the first rusher miss. Did a better job of locating and finding the second and third receiver as a senior and of knowing when to get rid of it.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal height. Can do a better job reading blitzes and adjusting to movement. Not very mobile or nifty-footed. Struggles to throw with touch, take pace off balls and drop them into a bucket. Will muscle the ball too much and rely on his arm strength instead of stepping into throws. Tries too hard, presses too much and tries to do too much at the end of close games. Played in a spread offense and was in the shotgun 85 percent of the time, not taking many snaps under center. Has had some trouble controlling his weight, having been close to 280 pounds, and will really balloon up at times. Does not always set his feet, even when he has time to do so.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Hackney could be an ideal backup in the pros in the mold of David Garrard. He dropped weight and improved his conditioning in the offseason and made strides as a senior. If he keeps his weight down, becomes more consistent and learns to play within himself, he has the tools to develop into an NFL quarterback. Was too erratic at the Senior Bowl.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	11/8	149	293	50.9%	1,977	14	7
2003	7/7	107	210	51.0%	1,659	9	6
2004	12/12	197	358	55.0%	3,070	26	8
2005	11/11	242	386	62.7%	3,180	22	12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

QB

#7

D.J.
SHOCKLEY

GEORGIA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 214 40-YARD: 4.65e



UPSIDE: Outstanding athlete. Can buy time in the pocket with his quick feet and elude the rush and escape trouble. Very book-smart and a quick study in the classroom. The son of a coach, he can take what he learns from the blackboard onto the field. Has good poise, remains cool and collected in the huddle, and players respond to him. Shows good on-field leadership qualities and has a presence about him. Can make adjustments to what he sees. Has a rifle arm and throws a laser-tight spiral.

DOWNSIDE: Has only 12 career starts, having backed up David Greene until his senior year, and is still learning the game. Lacks ideal size and will not see wide-open receivers at times or will see them and throw way off the mark. Can be too deliberate with his reads and needs to learn to look off defensive backs and learn to anticipate better. More of a thrower than a passer and has a lot of balls batted down despite having an over-the-top release. Does not have great footwork.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Some scouts think that, like Woodrow Dantzler and Ronald Curry, Shockley's athletic ability translates best to another position. Others think he is a cross between Donovan McNabb and Michael Vick athletically and has the intelligence to develop into a No. 1 quarterback. Looked too scatter-armed at the Senior Bowl and did not help himself, but teams should not over-value one poor week of practice.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	10/0	32	52	61.5%	415	5	2
2003	6/0	9	21	42.9%	88	1	1
2004	10/0	26	60	43.3%	464	4	1
2005	12/12	173	310	55.8%	2,588	24	5

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

QB

#8

Brett
BASANEZ

NORTHWESTERN

HT: 6-1 WT: 209 40-YARD: 4.66



UPSIDE: Excellent work habits. Will do all he can to improve and made great strides as a senior. Three-year starter who studies the game. Quick learner. Is very, very tough. Played with a broken leg as a redshirt freshman and a separated throwing shoulder as a junior. Highly competitive and opportunistic. Deceptively athletic and can buy a second chance with his feet and keep plays alive by continuing to look downfield and not letting his vision lower in the face of pressure. Gets rid of the ball quickly and improved his accuracy and decision-making as a senior. Throws a catchable ball. Good improviser who is at his best when plays start breaking down.

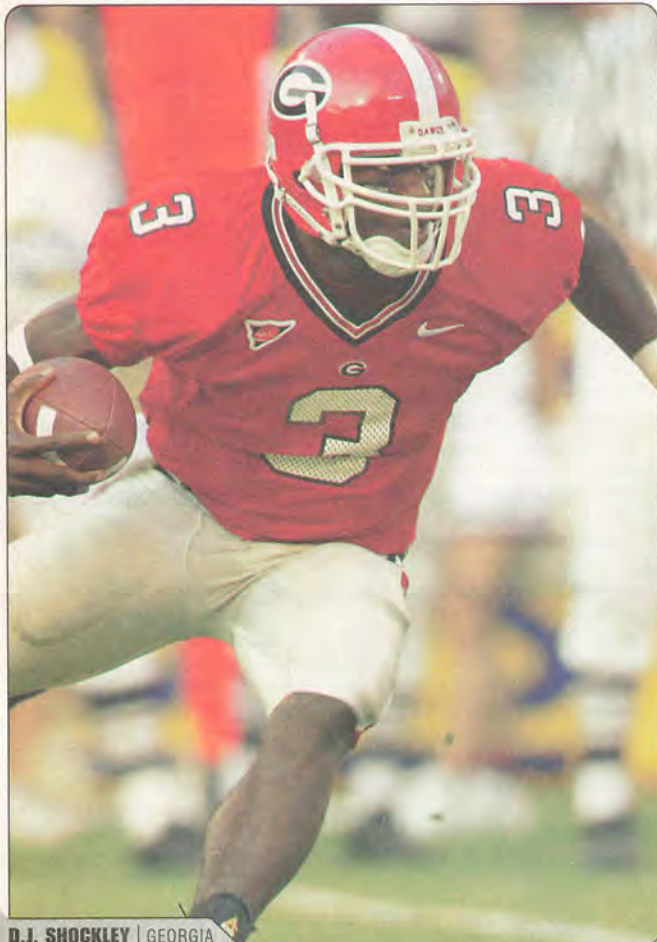
DOWNSIDE: Does not have great arm strength. Forces receivers to adjust to balls. Works out of the shotgun and must get comfortable taking snaps under center. Does not have great size and could be more susceptible to injury. Lacks ideal height and sees the field best when he is outside the pocket. Faded down the stretch.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Basanez may have to come up through the league the hard way and spend some time in developmental leagues before a team recognizes what they have — an incredibly tough, top-level competitor with a blue-collar, Chicago work ethic and great passion for the game. His arm strength is good enough and his intangibles terrific. He could be an ideal No. 3 quarterback and may turn out to be a pleasant surprise.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	10/9	190	325	58.5%	2,204	7	4
2003	13/13	162	302	53.6%	1,916	4	12
2004	12/12	247	460	53.7%	2,838	12	9
2005	12/12	314	497	63.2%	3,622	21	8

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND



D.J. SHOCKLEY | GEORGIA

U.S. PRESSWIRE

THE

PFW

PROTOTYPE

QB

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in QB prospects

Four traits are most critical to be successful at the most difficult position to play in all of sports, and most have to do with mental makeup. A quarterback must be **tough** to withstand pressure and criticism, have the **intangibles** to lead and the **intelligence** to act like a coach on the field. But most importantly, he must throw with **accuracy**.

TOUGHNESS

The ability to stand in the pocket in the face of pressure and deliver the ball. Knowing the difference between being injured and being hurt and fighting through pain. Not showing any signs of weakness in the huddle and demanding the same from teammates. Walking to the line of scrimmage with a gleam of confidence in his eye and inspiring confidence in teammates, knowing that he will find a way to execute even if the play breaks down. Brett Favre is the epitome of toughness.

ACCURACY

More important than arm strength is the ability to place the ball in the right spot, to anticipate where receivers will be and hit them in stride. Accuracy involves having good timing and touch and being able to thread a needle with a tight spiral. Joe Montana was an extremely accurate passer.

INTANGIBLES

Intensely competitive, driven to succeed and work harder than everyone else, in turn raising expectations and elevating the play of teammates — yet not taking himself too seriously. Intangibles are defined by the way a player responds under pressure and carries himself against adversity. It is about becoming more poised in two-minute situations and looking forward to playing with the game on the line. It means having a presence on the field that commands respect from teammates and coaches alike. It is a quality of leadership that allows a quarterback to stimulate a huddle and rally a team to victory. The embodiment of intangibles can be found in three-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady.

QUARTERBACK

PROTOTYPE: Joe Montana
A third-round pick whose accuracy and intelligence made him arguably the best ever.

INTELLIGENCE

Ability to see the field, read defenses, see disguises unfold, anticipate blitzes, check to the right play, find the open receiver and make good, quick decisions. It means being prepared for all situations and having an innate feel for the rush. A smart QB will get rid of the ball very quickly and does not need to be mobile. Peyton Manning is the NFL's most cerebral quarterback.

—N.N.

200 lbs.

U.S. PRESSWIRE SPORTS ARCHIVE

QB

#9 **Tarvaris JACKSON**
ALABAMA STATE

HT: 6-1½ WT: 221 40-YARD: 4.74



UPSIDE: Extremely accurate with a live arm, a solid, muscular build and commanding presence. Can zip the ball. Very athletic. Can roll out of the pocket and throw on the move. Good ball placement. Competes hard and has matured a lot the past three years, becoming more of a worker. Wants to improve and will work to get better.

DOWNSIDE: Was very immature early in his career prior to transferring from Arkansas. Not technique-sound. Feet point different directions when he throws and his mechanics could use refinement. Does not always set his feet. Played in a dink-and-dunk offense and did not make a lot of vertical throws. Gets happy feet and will pull down the ball and run instead of standing and delivering. Not a great scrambler or very elusive in the open field. Can do a better job reading safeties and getting rid of the ball more quickly. Still an inconsistent passer.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Jackson has the raw tools to be molded but will require attention to correct his mechanics. A lot of his flaws are correctable, and if he could learn to set his feet, see the field better and be more patient reading defenses, he could turn out to be a fine passer. An interesting developmental-type prospect with more upside than Dolphins QB Cleo Lemon when he was coming out of Arkansas State in 2001.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	8/1	14	39	35.9%	143	1	2
2003	13/13	160	314	51.0%	2,342	18	13
2004	12/12	183	350	52.3%	2,562	20	9
2005	11/11	195	320	60.9%	2,940	29	5

QB

#10 **Bruce GRADKOWSKI**
TOLEDO

HT: 6-1 WT: 220 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Tough and competitive three-year starter who plays with great intensity and draws others to him. Smart and prepared. Team captain. Great intangibles. Plays within himself. Makes good decisions. Can move around the pocket and avoid the first wave of rushers. Very confident. Has the work habits and on-field demeanor teams seek in quarterbacks. When he speaks, teammates listen.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have a great arm to drill the out and has to wind up to throw the deep ball. The farther he must throw, the more he struggles. Production slipped as a senior without as much talent around him. Makes too many iffy throws, had a number of dropped interceptions and does not throw downfield a lot. Timing is off and he often forces receivers to adjust to the ball. Played in a shotgun offense that allowed for a lot of predetermined reads and will need to adjust to taking snaps under center. Has small hands and struggles to hold onto the ball at times.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Gradkowski will never be a great starter, but teams could count on him to be prepared every week and do an excellent job playing the role of the opponent's quarterback. He had a better year as a junior, when he had a better supporting cast, than he did as a senior. He has the make-up of a No. 3 quarterback in a dink-and-dunk, West Coast offense.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	13/0	2	3	66.7%	28	0	0
2003	12/12	277	389	71.2%	3,210	29	7
2004	13/13	280	399	70.2%	3,518	27	8
2005	11/11	207	332	62.3%	2,469	29	12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-7TH ROUND

QB

#11

Paul
PINEGAR

FRESNO STATE

HT: 6-4½ WT: 235 40-YARD: 5.03

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	14/11	230	403	57.1%	2,929	20	10
2003	9/8	174	294	59.2%	1,773	11	9
2004	12/12	173	292	59.2%	2,099	23	15
2005	13/13	265	416	63.7%	3,335	30	15

UPSIDE: Outstanding size. Looks the part. Knows where to go with the ball and can make sight adjustments. Will stand in the face of pressure and deliver. Can throw on the move. Has been durable and will play hurt. Film junkie who wants to get better and will do extra work to improve. Good competitor.

DOWNSIDE: Accuracy has not been great and arm strength is suspect, with the inability to make throws beyond 35 yards or hit deep corner routes. Has not shown great mental toughness. Has a low release point and has more balls batted down than a man his size should. Throws into coverage too much. Has a slow delivery and telegraphs his throws.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Pinegar lacks the arm strength and mental toughness to be more than a No. 3 quarterback. His best chance will come in an offense that likes to use a lot of play-action and rollouts and will allow him to throw on the move.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-7TH ROUND

QB

#12

Omar
JACOBS [JR.]

BOWLING GREEN

HT: 6-4e WT: 225e 40-YARD: 4.75e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2003	4/0	19	28	67.9%	345	4	0
2004	12/12	309	462	66.9%	4,002	41	4
2005	9/9	195	321	60.7%	2,590	26	7

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Is functional for what he is asked to do in the offensive system he runs. Maintains poise and generally makes good decisions. Good TD-INT ratio. Can zip it and anticipate where receivers will be.

DOWNSIDE: Very thinly built and frail-looking. Has a sidearm, ¾-push delivery. Played in a shotgun offense that padded his statistics with a lot of high-percentage throws. Was not asked to go through progression reads or did not often look beyond his primary receiver. Will have to get comfortable taking snaps under center. Not very athletic to elude the rush. Missed two-plus games with a separated left (non-throwing) shoulder. Could struggle adjusting to the closing speed of NFL defensive backs. Thinks he is better than he is.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Bigger than 2004 sixth-round pick Josh Harris, but not much more refined and will be challenged to beat system label and grow in an NFL offense. Postseason workouts could boost status.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-7TH ROUND

QB

#13

Kellen
CLEMENS

OREGON

HT: 6-1½ WT: 219 40-YARD: 4.91

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	5/0	23	40	57.5%	201	2	1
2003	13/13	182	304	59.9%	2,400	18	9
2004	11/11	223	372	59.9%	2,548	22	10
2005	8/8	185	289	64.0%	2,406	19	4

UPSIDE: Made considerable strides as a senior, improving his accuracy and displaying more grit and determination. Natural leader who will challenge his teammates. Diligent worker. The game is very important to him.

DOWNSIDE: Broke his left ankle Oct. 22 and ended his college career early. Played in a simplified spread-option offense that allowed quicker decisions to be made and boosted accuracy. When he had to read the field and go through his progressions in previous offense, he really struggled.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Playing in a system that hid his flaws and only called for third-field reads to be made, Clemens blossomed as a senior until getting hurt. He is not the athlete that Broncos 2004 seventh-round pick Bradlee Van Pelt was coming out of Colorado State, but he is a similar competitor and should be drafted late if he recovers fully from injury and is cleared medically.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-7TH ROUND

QB

#14

Drew
OLSON

UCLA

HT: 6-1 WT: 225 40-YARD: 5.1e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	9/5	53	104	51.0%	702	3	4
2003	12/9	173	325	53.2%	2,067	10	9
2004	12/12	196	341	57.5%	2,565	20	13
2005	12/12	242	378	64.0%	3,198	34	6

UPSIDE: Responded to open challenge to win starting job as a senior and had a great year with a rare 34-6 TD-INT ratio. Knows how to rally a huddle and motivate a team. Seems to get the job done in the clutch and find ways to win. Rallied the Bruins to four fourth-quarter, come-from-behind victories.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have an NFL arm and his ball seems to die on him at times. Is just an average athlete with limited mobility. Had reconstructive surgery on his left knee. Does not feel pressure very well. Throws behind receivers and does not have great timing or anticipation. Struggles to connect on the deep ball. Holds onto the ball too long and will force the ball into double and triple coverage.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Olson is a good college quarterback. His marginal ability probably will keep him out of the league, but his resiliency gives him an outside chance.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-FREE AGENT

QB

#15

Marcus
VICK [JR.]

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-0e WT: 215e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2003	11/0	30	57	52.6%	475	2	5
2004	DNP	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005	13/13	177	289	61.2%	2,393	17	10

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Throws with nice touch and accuracy. Is a more natural passer than his brother Michael. Sets up quickly and has good mobility to move around and avoid the rush. Can make every throw.

DOWNSIDE: Too short. Average field vision. Very, very questionable character and has not learned from his mistakes. Has multiple arrests and thinks he is above the law and can do whatever he pleases. Not a leader. Trouble seems to find him wherever he goes and will not represent an NFL franchise with class. Has some Terrell Owens in him and revels in self-made adversity. Puts himself first, and the team second. Has played poorly in big games, making a lot of bad decisions vs. Miami (Fla.). Too careless with the ball.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Better athletically than some NFL starters and has shown more refined passing skills than some No. 2 quarterbacks. Raiders or Cardinals might give him another chance late in the draft.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-FREE AGENT

BEST OF THE REST

16. **BARRICK NEALY** | Texas State
Will likely be drafted as an athlete, not a QB.

17. **JUSTIN HOLLAND** | Colorado State
Needed great senior year and did not have one.

18. **ERIK MEYER** | Eastern Washington
Undersized gunslinger stood out at I-AA level.

19. **MATT BAKER** | North Carolina
One-year starter with upside to be drafted late.

20. **BRETT ELLIOTT** | Linfield (Ore.)
Utah transfer could fit in West Coast offense.

21. **TRAVIS LULAY** | Montana State
Great production, intangibles could intrigue.

22. **BRUCE EUGENE** | Grambling State
Short, overweight, rifle-armed coach on the field.

23. **JOEL KLATT** | Colorado
Looked draftable in first half vs. Texas A&M.

24. **KENT SMITH** | Central Michigan
Intriguing measurables, limited arm strength.

25. **QUINTON PORTER** | Boston College
Very raw but has physical tools.

UP CLOSE:

OLD HANDS

SEVERAL SENIOR QB PROSPECTS BOAST THE AMPLE PLAYING EXPERIENCE NFL EXECUTIVES COVET

By Mike Wilkening

Seasoned seniors who made the most of their final year of eligibility top QB draft boards in war rooms of teams all around the NFL.

Clemson's Charlie Whitehurst rebounded after a tough junior season to complete more than two-thirds of his passes in the regular season and lead the Tigers to the Champs Sports Bowl. Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler, like Whitehurst a four-year starter, orchestrated an upset of bully Tennessee. Once relatively unknown outside the Southeastern Conference, his name carries a buzz with NFL personnel men and draftniks alike. Gutsy Alabama QB Brodie Croyle has also made his mark with scouts.

Cutler, Whitehurst and Croyle are trying to leverage their four years of experience into professional success. If it were up to NFL evaluators, there would be more quarterbacks following their examples.

"There's no substitute for playing experience, and that's what a young man gets for staying four years," Colts president Bill Polian said. "Secondly, he develops further physically and mentally. And

the physical part of it may be most important. When you come into the National Football League and play the position of quarterback, you're going to take some lumps.

"... Finally, and this goes hand-in-hand with the playing part, as you play (and) gain more experience at the position, you also gain wisdom, you gain confidence. There isn't a substitute for that. And so the mental and emotional development you get from playing at that collegiate level as opposed to sitting at (the NFL) level, I think it pays big dividends. And you don't have to look any further than No. 18 to see that."

No. 18, of course, is

Peyton Manning, a four-year starter at Tennessee before being selected first overall in 1998. Manning easily could have elected to leave after a stellar junior campaign (3,287 yards, 20 TD passes), but he stuck around for a celebrated senior campaign.

Polian, searching for a young quarterback, saw Manning improve in that final year.

"Peyton became much, much more of a field general," Polian said. "I think the game slowed down for him at the college level his senior year. His ball placement was much better."

Giants general manager Ernie Accorsi traded for a Manning brother — Ole Miss star Eli, in 2004. Asked if Eli Manning, a backup one season and a starter his final three collegiate seasons, came out of his senior year with an improved skill set, Accorsi instead pointed to the all-important experience factor.

"A lot of the play by a quarterback is natural," Accorsi said. "If they have a flaw, that's going to be corrected or changed anyway by coaches or teachers in the league. What he gained was, he was on a losing team his junior year, and he tried to carry that team. ... I went to see him play Auburn his junior year, and I saw a player who was trying to single-handedly carry a team on his back. What he gained the next year was leading a winning team, going to the Cotton Bowl, playing in the Cotton Bowl in all that pressure."

Of course, four years of collegiate playing experience doesn't preclude a quarterback from NFL success. Ben Roethlisberger, Michael Vick and Drew Bledsoe have all thrived without playing a senior season.

But tales of players who left too early counter the early-entry success stories. Heath Shuler, Ryan Leaf and Tim Couch all left with eligibility remaining, and each struggled with the transition. Said Accorsi: "I've seen one quarterback after another, more than any other position, try to come out early, and fail when they should have stayed in school. And I've spoken to a lot of parents until I was blue in the face, trying to tell them to please have their quarterbacks stay one more year. And they didn't make it."

Perhaps some young quarterbacks will be motivated by the progress shown by Whitehurst, Cutler and Croyle as seniors. And then, of course, there is the example set by USC's Matt Leinart, who has done as much as any player in recent memory to glorify the collegiate experience. Leinart, a three-year starter, walked away from millions of dollars when he decided to stay for his senior season.

At least one highly regarded junior prospect will stay for a fourth year of college. Notre Dame's Brady Quinn, who made major strides in his first season receiving tutelage from head coach Charlie Weis, is staying in South Bend.

Accorsi, who interviewed Weis, then the Patriots' offensive coordinator, for the Giants' head-coaching vacancy after the

2003 season, applauded Quinn's decision.

"Another year under Charlie Weis, invaluable. Invaluable," Accorsi said. "There's no way you can replace what he'll gain (from) another year at Notre Dame. And then there's fringe benefits: The chance to win a national championship, which you can only do once in your life. The chance to win the Heisman Trophy, which you can only do once in your life."

"Why rush being a college kid? There's no need to."

FAST FACT: Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler threw for a career-high 3,073 yards in 2005

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

RB PROSPECTS

Last year marked the first time three runners were drafted in the top five. There may never again be a class that can duplicate that feat, especially from the senior class alone. There could be more runners drafted in the first round this year, but the junior class is supplying the elite talent in this RB crop.

Two of the top three juniors hail from the same backfield. Between Reggie Bush and LenDale White, USC features a backfield tandem that could make almost any NFL team envious. Bush can do it all, but since he's not built to withstand a pounding between the tackles, White handled

that role well, and they complemented each other nicely.

Bush, despite his lack of size, is a complete back who is deserving of comparisons to Gale Sayers. What makes him special is his ability to catch the ball. He has excellent hands and dynamic return skills, which could make him the highest-drafted junior since Ki-Jana Carter in 1995.

Minnesota's Laurence Maroney has also played in a two-headed backfield throughout his career, but he proved he could be a workhorse as a junior. All three are capable of contributing immediately in the pros.

The top senior runner in this draft is Memphis RB DeAngelo

Williams, an incredibly productive runner with more than 6,000 career rushing yards who will have to overcome questions about his height (5-8 $\frac{3}{4}$), durability (multiple knee injuries) and level of competition (Conference USA).

LSU's Joseph Addai, playing in a crowded backfield, finally took center stage as a senior after junior Alley Broussard was lost to a knee injury in training camp, but Addai hurt his ankle at midseason and tapered off the rest of the year, raising questions about his ability to be a featured back.

Other notable seniors include Mississippi State's Jerious Norwood, New Mexico's DonTrell Moore, Georgia Tech's P.J. Daniels and Florida State's Leon Washington.

2006 CLASS GRADE:
B+

RB

#1

Reggie
BUSH [JR.]

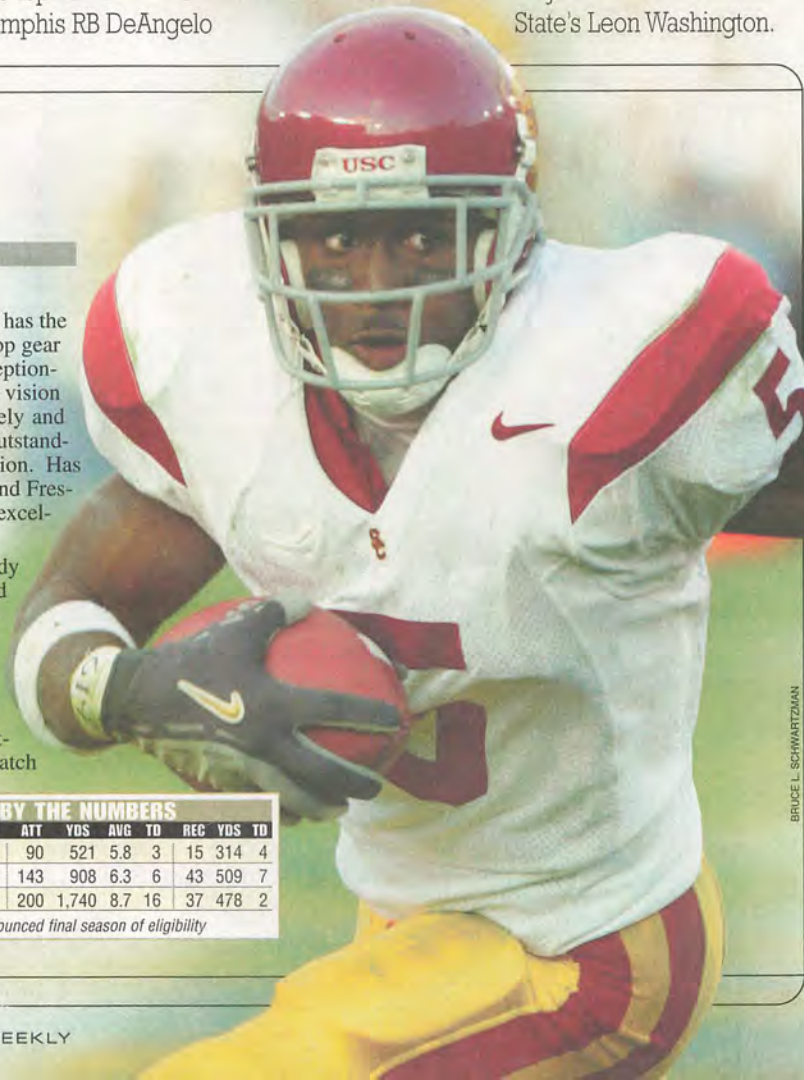
USC

HT: 5-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.4e

UPSIDE: With rare balance and lateral quickness, Bush has the ability to make cuts at high speeds and reaccelerate to top gear in a blink. Not having to gather himself to cut, he is exceptional running in traffic or in the open field. Has tremendous vision and knows how to string moves together. Runs decisively and leaves defenders in their tracks, dry-grasping the air. Outstanding competitor who plays the game with great passion. Has played big in big games when trailing vs. Notre Dame and Fresno State and showed the ability to take over games. Has excellent hands and natural return skills. Very durable.

DOWNSIDE: Is undersized with more of a receiver's body and never had to carry a full workload. Playing behind arguably the most talented offensive line in football, has had wide running lanes to run through and has not had to withstand a lot of contact. Limited experience in pass protection.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Bush is not as thick as Marshall Faulk — drafted second overall in 1994 — but he is better in all the same areas. He can do it all — run, pass, catch and return. He is capable of exciting a crowd, demoralizing a defense and changing a game. True difference-makers are a rare breed and do not come along often. They are worth trading up to go get and can change the fortunes of a franchise. Bush is all of the above.



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2003	13/0	90	521	5.8	3	15	314	4
2004	13/2	143	908	6.3	6	43	509	7
2005	13/13	200	1,740	8.7	16	37	478	2

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

RB
#2 **Laurence MARONEY** [JR.]
MINNESOTA
HT: 5-11e WT: 215e 40-YARD: 4.45e



UPSIDE: Has a solid frame to carry 225 pounds. Split carries throughout his career but showed he could be a bell-cow back and handle 40-plus carries as a junior. Makes quick decisions between the tackles, shows the vision to see cut-back lanes and has the top-end speed to break away from the pack. Shows a nice short-area burst in the open field and can sidestep and kick through tackles. Takes care of the ball. Understands angles and can wiggle and weave through traffic and burst out of breaks. Has the speed to be a threat on kickoff returns.

DOWNSIDE: Runs too upright and can do a better job of sinking his hips. Has had trouble adding weight in college with poor eating habits. Not a very powerful or authoritative runner and does not break a lot of tackles. Slow starter who picks up speed after 10 yards and is more fast than quick. Can get stretched and tracked down to the sideline waiting for a seam to uncover. Not overly elusive to escape traffic. Not used much in pass protection and needs to improve as a blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A zone-running, cut-back runner with great vision and speed to hit a seam and go the distance. A faster and more explosive runner than 2005 Cowboys fourth-round pick Marion Barber III, Maroney has been a big-time playmaker for the Gophers and has proven he could carry a full workload and develop into a No. 1 back.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2003	13/2	162	1,121	6.9	10	1	11	0
2004	13/2	217	1,348	6.2	12	3	16	0
2005	12/12	281	1,464	5.2	10	17	170	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



LAURENCE MARONEY | MINNESOTA

RB
#3 **LenDale WHITE** [JR.]
USC
HT: 6-1½e WT: 235e 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Big and strong inside runner with nimble feet and a fluid stride for a man of his size. Has natural run instincts with good vision to follow and react to his blockers and the patience to wait for holes to open. Shows enough speed to get to the corner and pick up yardage in big chunks. Keeps his legs churning on contact, has powerful hips and can run through tacklers. Carries the ball high and tight and rarely puts it on the ground. Can turn upfield quickly once he catches the ball. Can finish his runs.

DOWNSIDE: Has a soft body. Not an explosive runner and will sidestep a tackler rather than run him over. Does not run as big and powerfully as he could or drop his hips and punish tacklers like a back his size is capable of doing. Uses too much finesse between the tackles. Has not been a featured back and carried a full workload, splitting carries throughout his career and never carrying more than 25 times in a game. Does not have breakaway speed. Not going to shake or elude many tacklers in the open field. Does not like to do the dirty work in pass protection. Questionable character.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: White is a big, finesse, one-speed, north-south runner with starter potential. Scouts have likened him to Jerome Bettis, but he is not as explosive at the point of attack and has a softer running style. He is more of a cross between Duce Staley and Jamal Lewis.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2003	13/0	141	754	5.3	13	6	15	1
2004	13/11	203	1,103	5.4	15	11	97	2
2005	13/0	197	1,302	6.6	24	14	219	2

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

RB
#4 **DeAngelo WILLIAMS**
MEMPHIS
HT: 5-8½ WT: 208 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Very thickly built with wide shoulders and a big trunk. Quick and shifty with great change of direction. Runs behind his pads with a low center of gravity and is difficult to hit squarely. Can run through tackles and make tacklers miss in space. Shows the balance to stay on his feet through traffic and enough strength to move the pile. Presses the line of scrimmage, can pick and slide and shows nice burst and acceleration. Catches the ball easily with very dependable hands. Incredibly productive behind a very average offensive line, setting an NCAA career record with 34 100-yard rushing games. Could have value as a returner. Team captain. Ran strong and decisively at the Senior Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Has not faced top competition. Durability is a concern, with multiple knee and leg injuries dating back to high school. Chose not to play vs. best defense (Tennessee) he faced as a senior because of lingering injuries and did not show the competitiveness so critical at the position. Shorter than scouts would like.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Some scouts see Williams as a third-down, change-of-pace back, questioning his ability to take hits and stay healthy for a full season. However, his production says otherwise, and despite all the tread on his tires, he has been very effective running in space on counters and screens, and if used right, has the quickness and run instincts to become a solid NFL starter.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	10/1	103	684	6.6	5	5	51	0
2003	11/11	243	1,430	5.9	10	35	384	3
2004	12/12	313	1,948	6.2	22	18	210	1
2005	11/11	310	1,964	6.3	18	12	78	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

RB

#5

Joseph
ADDAL

LOUISIANA STATE

HT: 5-11½ WT: 210 40-YARD: 4.41



UPSIDE: Very versatile. Has big legs and strong hips and a frame to grow. Runs with good body lean and shows the toughness to pound it inside. Will line up in the slot and shows some savvy to get open as a route-runner. Has very good hands and catches the ball easily. Solid, face-up blocker who is quick to recognize and pick up the blitz. He sets his feet, can anchor and will stop a rusher in his tracks. Has a special-teams attitude. Very coachable. Outstanding worker who is willing to do all the dirty work. Ran harder and started to break tackles as a senior and showed a lot in Peach Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Does not play to timed speed and is not overly creative. Has had multiple knee injuries and has not been able to stay healthy when he's been given the keys. Lacks bulk and wears down too easily. Has not shown natural run skills and does not avoid direct contact very well. Shows some tightness in lower body.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Addai is still a little rough around the edges and may never be a true starter in the pros, but he is everything a team could want in a backup and has the hands and blocking ability to excel on third downs. Like Kevin Faulk, drafted 46th overall out of LSU in 1999, Addai could be a special role player for a team that knows how to use him correctly. He is not as accomplished as a returner as Faulk was, but he is bigger and faster and has more upside. A jack of all trades, master of none.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TO	REC	YDS	TD	
2001	2/0	8	27	3.4	0	0	0	0	
2002	12/1	80	438	5.5	4	6	81	0	
2003	12/6	114	520	4.6	2	14	86	1	
2004	12/0	101	680	6.7	3	26	294	4	
2005	12/11	163	781	4.8	8	18	175	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

RB

#6

Brian
CALHOUN [JR.]

WISCONSIN

HT: 5-8½e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.45e



UPSIDE: Has shown he is capable of carrying a full workload. Runs hard and decisively. Tough competitor. Follows his blockers, sees running lanes unfold and shows a burst to and through the hole. Has the speed to turn the corner and can pick up chunks of yardage. Very good receiver out of the backfield with natural hands and the ability to adjust to the ball. Instinctive. Great receiving production, finishing second on the team in catches with 53. Earned MVP honors in the Capital One Bowl with an outstanding 30-carry, 213-yard, one-TD effort vs. a stingy Auburn defense on a big stage. Called "the best runner we've had" by Wisconsin head coach Barry Alvarez.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal size and does not have the bulk strength to push the pile or pound it inside. Does not pick up much yardage after contact. Production slipped down the stretch, averaging barely three yards vs. Purdue, not even two yards vs. Penn State and little more than one yard vs. Iowa. Could wear down over a long NFL season. Not overly elusive for an undersized runner and is ineffective in pass protection.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Put on 15 pounds of muscle in the year he sat out after transferring from Colorado and became a much tougher runner, capable of withstanding contact and carrying 25 times a game. Would be a great fit in a zone-running scheme like the Broncos use, where he could make one cut and get upfield.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TO	REC	YDS	TD	
2002	14/1	76	314	4.1	0	4	73	1	
2003	12/10	195	810	4.2	5	32	266	1	
2004	DNP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2005	12/12	348	1,636	4.7	22	53	571	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

RB

#7

Jerious
NORWOOD

MISSISSIPPI STATE

HT: 5-11½ WT: 204 40-YARD: 4.41



UPSIDE: Has quick feet and improving vision with rare timed speed to kick into high gear when he gets in the clear. Always a threat to go all the way. Shows a burst out of his cuts and good body control. Very shifty with sudden movements. Keeps his legs driving and feet moving. Runs behind his pads and can pick up some tough yards after contact. Catches the ball well on the move. Was very productive for not having much talent around him. Competes hard. Great work ethic. Solid character. Will do everything he is asked to do and more.

DOWNSIDE: Does not play to timed speed and spends too much time pitter-patter in the hole and cutting back against the grain when he does not need to. High cut with a very thin lower body. Does not have great balance and can go down too easily. Shows some tightness in his hips and is not overly elusive. Lacks great strength and bulk to power through tacklers and move the pile. Can be too impatient and will try to create instead of letting blocks develop. Does not have great vision. Blocks with a narrow base and is not much of a face-up blocker. Not a natural route-runner.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Norwood is still learning to run with patience. He needs to develop a better feel for the flow of a defense and get stronger, but he has the skill set and intangibles to develop into a solid backup. Similar to Broncos RB Tatum Bell.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TO	REC	YDS	TD	
2002	12/0	66	394	6.0	0	5	47	0	
2003	12/8	121	642	5.3	2	8	6	0	
2004	11/11	195	1,050	5.4	7	11	37	0	
2005	11/11	191	1,136	5.9	6	19	96	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

RB

#8

DonTrell
MOORE

NEW MEXICO

HT: 5-9½ WT: 212 40-YARD: 4.52



UPSIDE: Instinctive runner with good lateral quickness and balance to work through traffic and stay on his feet. Very tough. Will play through pain. Gets stronger as the game goes on and wears down defenses with his grit and determination. Has good vision and can reverse field and create when nothing is there. Shows some elusiveness in the open field. Very consistent production with four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Has fine hands and has taken on more of a role in the passing game. Shows enough savvy as a route-runner to be split wide in the slot. Studies the game and has a passion for it. Outstanding worker. Receives high marks for his character and is highly respected by teammates and coaches.

DOWNSIDE: Too short and not built to be an every-down back. Not a burner and can get caught from behind. Production is inflated from playing against average competition. Not very powerful and will not break a lot of tackles. Injury history is a concern, with ankle, foot and multiple knee injuries. Not a great blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Moore has some similarities to Vikings 2004 fourth-round pick Mewelde Moore. Their size may preclude them from ever being every-down backs, but they have the toughness and versatility to at least make a contribution on third downs and on special teams and could bring added value to a West Coast offense predicated on the short passing game.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TO	REC	YDS	TD	
2002	13/9	245	1,134	4.6	13	23	139	2	
2003	13/10	276	1,450	5.3	19	11	149	2	
2004	11/11	232	1,091	4.7	5	27	198	1	
2005	11/11	275	1,298	4.7	14	31	371	3	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE RB

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in RB prospects

Study the great running backs, and four traits will repeatedly come forth. To break tackles or elude tacklers in space, a runner must be very **competitive**, have great **balance** and possess the **vision** to innately know where to run. To be special, a runner must be able to contribute on every down and be able to **catch and block**.

COMPETITIVENESS

A burning desire to be the best, not to be stopped by one man. Having the heart to keep battling behind even the worst offensive line with tacklers coming unencumbered. It means refusing to be stopped near the goal line, being able to create your own hole when none is there, as Barry Sanders may have done best.

BALANCE

The key to power and elusiveness lies in having a low center of gravity, being able to stay on your feet after contact while juking, spinning and stringing moves together. To change gears, burst out of breaks and quickly accelerate past defenders, a runner must have great balance. It is just as important to withstand contact between the tackles. Great runners could make themselves big or little and break tackles as easily as they could avoid them by running behind their pads.

RUNNING BACK

PROTOTYPE: Walter Payton
Had such incredible balance he could walk the length of a football field on his hands.

RUNNING BACK

VISION

Innate running skills, seeing holes open and close and decisively recognizing when to hit a hole inside, bounce outside or cut back are vision traits. Holes in the NFL close much faster than they do in college and require runners to be very decisive. Great runners see through the first tackler and are already preparing what move they are going to make to defeat the next two defenders downfield. They can anticipate angles of tacklers and avoid being hit squarely, as Gale Sayers and Emmitt Smith were very adept at doing.

PASS PRO/HANDS

To be used in third-down situations, backs must either be able to pass protect or catch the ball. Great backs understand pass protection and can stone even the best pass rusher, as Payton could do. To be special, backs must have soft hands, be able to adjust to the ball and track it in the air. Payton did it all, even threw the ball well, which is why he is regarded as the most complete back ever to play the game.

—N.N.


MALCOLM EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE

RB

#9 P.J. DANIELS

GEORGIA TECH

HT: 5-9" | WT: 211 | 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Very patient, reads blocks, keeps his shoulders squared to the line of scrimmage and shows great initial acceleration when he hits the hole. Runs decisively and gets upfield fast. Drives his legs on contact. Runs with fine balance and leverage. Outstanding worker. Will do everything he can do improve. Very competitive. Treats his body like a temple. Takes care of the ball. Can adjust to the ball and catch it outside his frame.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great long speed. Not very nimble-footed or elusive in the open field after his first cut. Limited power to break through tackles and needs some room to turn the corner. On the short side. Tore the meniscus in his right knee in 2004 and has played in a rotation since. Leaves his feet too much as a blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Compact, thickly built, north-and-south runner who gets downhill fast and showed he could be a workhorse as a sophomore, when he rushed for more than 1,500 yards. Has split carries since injuring his knee in 2004 and his production dropped, but Daniels could be effective in a zone-blocking scheme like Denver's and shows some similarities to Lions 2000 third-round pick and current Browns RB Reuben Droughns. It could take Daniels some time before he contributes, but he has the makeup to contribute on special teams and the determination, desire and diligence to improve every year.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD	
2002	12/0	72	255	3.5	2	5	57	0	
2003	13/12	283	1,447	5.1	10	19	88	1	
2004	8/7	154	714	4.6	8	11	50	1	
2005	11/11	198	930	4.7	3	21	174	1	


2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

RB

#10 Leon WASHINGTON

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 5-7" | WT: 210 | 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Runs hard with a low center of gravity and stays on his feet through traffic. Can anticipate where holes will open, plant hard and dart through holes. Shows a burst to pull away from the pack. Tough competitor with a strong will to succeed. Has soft hands and adjusts well to the ball. Has experience returning kicks and punts and has nice vision and enough elusiveness to contribute in the return game at the next level. Smart and learns quickly.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal height and the size to hold up between the tackles. Not very powerful or explosive and does not break a lot of tackles. Has never carried a full workload. Has a history of shoulder, ankle and elbow injuries that have forced him to miss five games and parts of others. Had a disappointing senior season and looked average early in the year before getting down to his playing weight.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Did not spend the summer of 2005 in Tallahassee and arrived at training camp overweight and out of shape. Role was reduced in the offense as the Seminoles went to the air more often. It took some time to work off the weight, and Washington never found a rhythm as a senior. Teams that concentrate on his senior year could mis-evaluate him. He has never been an every-down back, but he showed the vision, run instincts, burst and acceleration earlier in his career to be a solid backup. He needs to stay close to 205 pounds to maximize his potential.

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD	
2002	14/2	60	273	4.6	1	6	30	0	
2003	9/0	74	387	5.2	1	10	90	0	
2004	10/10	138	951	6.9	7	14	90	0	
2005	11/10	97	430	4.4	3	25	267	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

RB

#11

Maurice DREW [JR.]

UCLA

HT: 5-6e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2003	13/2	135	582	4.3	5	15	104	0
2004	11/8	160	1,007	6.3	8	18	262	3
2005	12/12	186	914	4.9	13	31	453	4

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Very productive in a big-time program. Has good hands out of the backfield and as a returner. Runs with a very low center of gravity and terrific balance and is difficult to knock off his feet. Brushes off arm tackles like he doesn't feel them and shows good change of direction and run vision to make defenders miss. Very strong pound-for-pound. Very confident and determined. Outstanding work habits.

DOWNSIDE: Too short and undersized. Lacks true home-run speed and can get caught from behind. Not going to be a full-time player and is primarily a special-teams player. Marginal blocker. Durability is a concern, with multiple ankle injuries.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A bigger and stronger runner and better punt returner than San Diego 2005 fourth-round pick Darren Sproles, but like Sproles, Drew's lack of height is a big obstacle to overcome. Brings most value as a returner and can contribute on third downs.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND



MAURICE DREW | UCLA

RB

#13

Wendell MATHIS

FRESNO STATE

HT: 5-10e WT: 210e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	9/0	18	50	2.8	0	0	0	0
2003	DNP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	11/2	146	995	6.8	12	4	59	0
2005	13/9	248	1,313	5.3	15	19	156	1

UPSIDE: Ran stronger between the tackles as a senior and became more of a factor in the short passing game. Has nice vision to see cut-back lanes and hits seams quickly. Can accelerate out of his breaks and get upfield. Patiently follows and reacts off his blockers. Production has been very solid the last two years despite not starting as a junior.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized and not built to withstand a pounding. Not very powerful and isn't going to break a lot of tackles. Not very nifty and lacks top-end speed to kick into overdrive. Needs a lot of work in pass protection and could be a liability as a blocker at the next level.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Began career at UCLA (2002) but transferred to Fresno State to escape a crowded backfield and unseated Bryson Sumlin as the featured back as a senior. Mathis is a tough north-and-south runner who plays bigger than his size.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

RB

#14

Gerald RIGGS

TENNESSEE

HT: 6-0e WT: 215e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	10/0	17	49	2.9	0	2	12	0
2003	8/0	46	207	4.5	1	0	0	0
2004	13/3	193	1,107	5.7	6	8	37	0
2005	6/6	127	530	4.2	3	10	74	0

UPSIDE: Big, strong, natural athlete who runs with good leg drive and can transition out of his cuts effortlessly. Can pick and slide and is able to get skinny and squirt through holes. Great hands.

DOWNSIDE: Not very explosive or powerful and does not pick up a lot of yards after contact. Has a sense of entitlement as the son of a star NFL runner and has never worked very hard or understood what it takes to be great. Leaves yardage on the field too often and does not finish runs. Suffered an ankle injury that cut his senior year in half. Marginal blocker who whiffs too much. Average production.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: More naturally talented than Jarrett Payton, who went undrafted in 2004 and now plays for the Titans, but they share a lot of similarities. Blessed with the physical ability to start in the league, but unless he shows he wants to be great and learns what it means to work, he will never be more than a backup.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

RB

#12

Andre HALL

SOUTH FLORIDA

HT: 5-8 1/4 WT: 204 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	11/8	210	1,357	6.5	11	18	149	1
2005	12/12	270	1,434	5.0	13	26	321	2

UPSIDE: Has quick feet and moves very naturally like he is gliding. Runs hard and, despite his lack of size, is able to stay on his feet and pick up yardage after contact. Can pick and slide and work off blocks. Very solid production throughout his career with four consecutive 1,000-plus-yard seasons (two at junior-college level). Has great hands and surprising strength to anchor in pass protection. Lines up outside and can catch outside his body and make some acrobatic grabs. Has returned some kicks. Works hard and has been very durable.

DOWNSIDE: Is shorter than scouts would like, lacks bulk and is not built to handle a pounding. Does not have great speed or make-you-miss ability. Only played one year of high school football and is still learning the game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A natural runner with the versatility and potential to develop into a solid backup and could bring great value in the return game.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

RB

#15

Jerome HARRISON

WASHINGTON STATE

HT: 5-9 1/4 WT: 202 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	11/5	174	900	5.2	9	10	69	0
2005	11/11	308	1,900	6.2	16	24	206	1

UPSIDE: Quick, agile and instinctive with a natural feel for where holes will open. Runs low to the ground with good leverage and balance. Hits the seam hard and can bounce off tacklers. Shows good hands. Has some return experience. Works hard and is looked to as a leader by his peers. Very productive and carried the team.

DOWNSIDE: Very skinny-legged and lacks bulk. Not explosive. Does not run strong and lacks the power to run inside. Has an average burst and no long speed. Not very elusive in the open field. Gets tracked down from behind. Needs to be more secure with the ball. Poor blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A great college running back who lacks the traits to translate his production to the pros. Small backs who won't hold up between the tackles need to be faster and more elusive to make it in the pros. Could fill a roster spot but will have to make a mark on special teams to stick.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

DeANGELO WILLIAMS

PFW GOES ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE 2005 NFL DRAFT'S TOP-RATED SENIOR RUNNING BACK | By Mike Holbrook

We sat down with Memphis senior RB DeAngelo Williams in his hotel room on the 24th floor of the Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Ala. after a practice at the 2006 Senior Bowl.

PFW: Some people are looking at you, at your size, and saying, "He's a third-down back," a "change-of-pace" back. Do you believe you can be an every-down back?

Williams: I believe I can be an every-down back. And guys that have proven it are guys like Julius Jones, Warrick Dunn. These are guys that have proved how smaller backs can get it done. I don't consider myself a small back. I'm 208 (pounds), 210. I'm just as qualified as any other guy who's an every-down back. But, hey, if they draft me, and I'm a third-down back, then I'm a third-down back. I don't mind.

PFW: You mentioned some good backs earlier. Have you heard yourself compared to other backs? Brian Westbrook?

Williams: Yeah, he's another guy that's proven that he can be an every-down back. But they compare me to a lot of different guys, and that's why I believe my running style is unique because you can't just compare me to one guy. I can't compare myself to one guy. Every time somebody compares me, they say, "You know who he reminds me of is such and such with a little mixture of such and such." So, you know, I just say my running style is unique.

PFW: And how would you describe your running style?

Williams: Well, I mean I just

adapt to the offense and the defense. How I run is dependent on whatever offense we're in and whatever defense we're facing. If I need to bounce it, I'll bounce it. If I need to pull it up inside, I'll pull it up inside. It's all based on what the linebackers do and what the line does. It's all on if they have six or seven in the box.

PFW: What do you think of the other backs that are being talked about for the first round — Reggie Bush, LenDale White and Laurence Maroney?

Williams: They're all great backs in their offenses. You know, a lot of guys say, "You know, if we put you in USC's offense, you'd flourish." Or, "If we put you in Minnesota's offense, you'd flourish." Things like that. Those are what-if statements, and I don't think that's something people should be doing because everybody's a fit for their system, and the running game and the passing game is set around those individual backs.

PFW: How important is football to you?

Williams: I have a passion for it. It's fun. You know, three or four years ago, it wasn't fun. It's not fun when you're losing. It's definitely not fun losing. You have to taste victory one time to know that it's fun because if you lose so much, then it's time to go on to something else.

PFW: Did you have any influences growing up? Any guys you idolized?

Williams: When I was in high school, Ricky Williams, when he was playing at Texas, was my guy. I loved him. I mean, he was a three-dimensional back — he was a guy that could run over you, run around you and block. That's what he did. I mean, he was averaging one-and-a-half to two collarbones a game. (Laughs) He was breaking them left and right. He was my guy. In high school, I got (number) 34 because Ricky Williams was my guy, and I wanted to be like him so bad, and that running style worked in high school. I mean, I was at 185, that's a fairly big back in high school. When I went to college, I tried to use that same running style, and it didn't work. (A guy) 190, 185 trying to run over a guy that's 230, 240? It took me a couple times getting knocked on my back, and I knew then I had to develop my own running style. And that's why I say I'm unique. You know, you may see a little bit of Barry Sanders and then you may see a little bit of T.J. Duckett. You just never know what you'll get out of me. I never know until I do it or I look at it on film.

PFW: You mentioned following Ricky Williams. Did you have a favorite NFL team?

Williams: San Francisco 49ers. I was born in '83. Yeah, I've been a Niners fan, when we had a great offense — Steve Young, J.J. Stokes, Jerry Rice, Ricky Watters, Garrison Hearst, guys like that. On defense, R.W. McQuarters, (Charles) Haley, Merton Hanks.

FAST FACT: IN 2005, THREE OF THE TOP FIVE OVERALL DRAFT PICKS WERE RUNNING BACKS



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#16

Taurean HENDERSON

TEXAS TECH

HT: 5-9e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	14/12	153	793	5.2	7	98	633	6
2003	13/13	124	736	5.9	10	78	611	6
2004	12/12	162	840	5.2	16	60	286	2
2005	12/12	148	872	5.9	17	67	528	5

UPSIDE: Good versatility. Is more accomplished as a receiver than runner, having broken the NCAA record for career catches by a running back with 298. Is quick and agile and shows some natural run instincts in the open field. Can split wide in the slot and knows how to work underneath to get open. Adjusts well to the flight of the ball and has very dependable hands.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks bulk, strength and power and won't be able to handle inside running at the next level. Not very physical and is rarely used in pass protection. Will struggle to stop the blitz.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Used predominantly as a receiver in a wide-open spread offense in college, Henderson's value is as a pass-catcher. He shows the burst and vision to be effective as a returner in the pros, even though he has not done it in college, and could fit as a situational role player and multi-purpose runner.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

#17

Cedric HUMES

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-0½ WT: 233 40-YARD: 4.62

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	14/0	16	68	4.3	0	7	76	0
2003	13/0	65	380	5.8	5	4	31	0
2004	13/3	130	605	4.7	5	8	46	0
2005	12/9	162	752	4.6	11	10	71	0

UPSIDE: Big, strong runner who can knock back the pile and pick up some tough yards. Runs with good body lean, and once he gets going, can be like a run-away freight train.

DOWNSIDE: Needs room to run. Picks his spots and doesn't always play with power. Lacks the top-end speed to break big runs. Has been hampered by injuries and broke his left fibula and right forearm despite never having been a featured back or taking more than 162 carries in a season. Not tough enough to play fullback or fast enough to play tailback. Has limited elusiveness and creativity. Unpolished as a receiver and blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Needs carries to get going but gets better as the game goes on and can wear down defenses. Could have a chance in a power running game like Pittsburgh's, but is not as strong or explosive as Steelers 2002 fifth-round pick Verron Haynes.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#18

Mike BELL

ARIZONA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 212 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	12/4	106	341	3.2	1	13	136	1
2003	12/10	168	920	5.5	6	6	53	0
2004	11/11	205	944	4.6	5	19	79	0
2005	11/11	200	952	4.8	5	18	197	0

UPSIDE: Has size potential with room to grow. Shows a short-area burst and nice lateral quickness to bounce outside. Catches the ball easily.

DOWNSIDE: Needs space to run and does not like to run between the tackles. Not very tough. Goes down too easily and does not kick through arm tackles. Does not run hard. Plays small. Has happy feet in the hole and loses concentration and bobbles the ball at times when defenders are in close proximity. Has small hands. Playing time decreased as a junior because of fumbling problems. Lacks long speed to go the distance and gets chased down. Disinterested blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was hospitalized with bacterial pneumonia in the summer prior to the 2005 season, and his weight fell below 200 pounds. He was able to regain most of the weight, but he lost strength and shied from contact as a senior. Could stick as a No. 3 back for some teams.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#19

Terrence WHITEHEAD

OREGON

HT: 5-9½ WT: 225 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	11/3	63	272	4.3	2	10	91	1
2003	12/9	192	737	3.8	6	28	253	1
2004	11/11	200	1,144	5.7	6	44	405	2
2005	11/10	156	679	4.5	4	52	490	4

UPSIDE: Strong, thickly built and compact. Runs hard and shows some power to battle through arm tackles. Tough. Used heavily in the short passing game and has terrific hands. Runs low to the ground and shows nice balance in the open field. Has some return experience with punts and kickoffs.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have the long speed or elusiveness to pick up big chunks of yardage or break away from the pack. Gets caught from behind too easily. Does not possess any "wow" factor. Durability could be an issue after having bone spurs removed from his ankles the last two years.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Whitehead's carries decreased as a senior in Gary Crowton's spread-option offense, but he remained a key dump-off option. His toughness and versatility could be ideal to make it at the next level on special teams, and he could have some value catching the ball.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

#20

Copy ROSS

NEBRASKA

HT: 5-6 WT: 200 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	12/1	35	184	5.3	2	5	39	0
2003	13/3	130	575	4.4	4	2	36	0
2004	11/11	207	1,102	5.5	6	21	26	2
2005	12/12	225	882	3.9	5	43	392	3

UPSIDE: Quick and elusive with great run instincts. Runs low to the ground with very good balance and can power through some arm tackles. Keeps his legs churning on contact. Shows enough burst to get to the outside and turn the corner. Catches the ball well.

DOWNSIDE: Very short and undersized and has had a lot of minor injuries. Will get swallowed running inside and in pass protection and is limited to working on the perimeter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: There have not been many 5-foot-6 backs in recent history that have been able to contribute in the backfield in anything more than a change-of-pace role. Even though he has limited return experience in college, Ross has the hands, quickness and burst to be effective as a returner in the pros. Not as fast or explosive as 2005 Chargers fourth-round pick Darren Sproles but similar in stature and running style with good balance.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

21. **QUINTON GANTHER** | Utah
Strong, leg-driving, instinctive, cut-back runner.

22. **RYAN GILBERT** | Houston
LSU transfer can slash, power through tackles.

23. **DERRICK ROSS** | Tarleton State (Texas)
Division II standout with power, not great speed.

24. **WALI LUNDY** | Virginia
Showed more traffic burst as a sophomore.

25. **J.R. LEMON** | Stanford
Looks the part but does not run hard.

26. **CORNELL BROCKINGTON (Jr.)** | Connecticut
Productive as sophomore, lost job as junior.

27. **MARQUES HAGANS** | Virginia
Elusive college QB can be change-of-pace back.

28. **P.J. POPE** | Bowling Green
Versatile but limited by ankle injuries in '05.

29. **CHRIS TAYLOR** | Indiana
Intriguing measurables could draw interest.

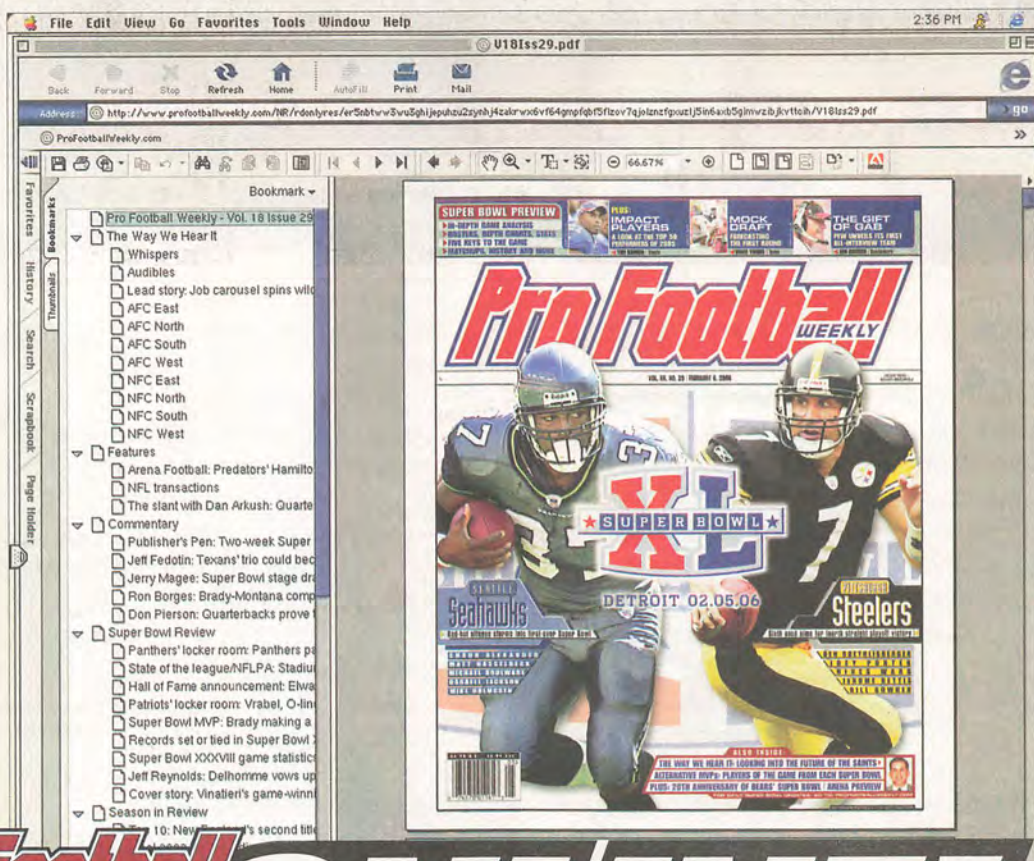
30. **JEROD VOID** | Purdue
RB-FB tweener with good size, nice production.

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FB PROSPECTS

Fullbacks seem to be a dying breed in the NFL. Long gone are the days when fullbacks were considered in the first round. Tommy Vardell was taken ninth overall in 1992 and William Floyd 28th overall in 1994, but since the introduction of the salary cap that year, the value of the position has declined.

Not only are fullbacks among the lowest-paid players in football, they are becoming less integral in pro offenses, with teams like the Patriots using offensive and defensive linemen or tight ends to handle the role typically reserved for fullbacks. Few fullbacks see many carries or get many touches in today's game, as NFL offenses seek to go more vertical and take advantage of the illegal-contact rule after five yards.

Fullbacks need to be comfortable playing a no-glory position and must be extremely tough as

isolation lead blockers to face up and take on linebackers on a consistent basis, leading to some of the most violent head-on collisions over the course of a game. The great ones are able to adjust on the second level and show a second surge.

Those who have been drafted highest in recent years have the athletic ability to contribute in the running game and the hands to be a factor in the short passing game.

This year, there are several fullbacks who entered college as running backs, led by Miami (Fla.)'s Quadtrine Hill. Arizona's Gilbert Harris also fits the bill, and BYU's Naufahu Tahi and Colorado's Lawrence Vickers are better athletes than blockers as well.

Wisconsin's Matt Bernstein has shown he can carry the ball, but he will have to make his living as a blocker.

In the last five years, only three fullbacks were drafted on the first day.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

D

FB

1

Quadtrine HILL

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-2e WT: 230e 40-YARD: 4.65e

UPSIDE: Naturally athletic with soft, soft hands and a frame to get bigger. Good versatility. Shows the strength to run inside and is agile enough to be an emergency tailback at the next level. Gets good positioning and can sustain blocks. Adjusts well to moving targets and is quick enough to seal and get on top of defenders. Knows how to work zones to get open. Can adjust to poorly thrown balls and catch outside his frame. Very smart. Has already graduated and is working on second degree.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks great bulk. Not a traditional fullback — is a runner first and a blocker second. Does not have breakaway speed or agility to line up at tailback and is not overly aggressive for FB position. Not going to drop the hammer or bury defenders and gave up a few sacks in pass protection as a senior because he was not aggressive enough. Does not have a great burst and is not very creative. Runs too upright and can do a better job of sinking his hips out of cuts.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Finesse fullback has been used mainly on third downs and not been a full-time player, but Hill would be ideal in a West Coast offense because he catches the ball so easily. He is a good enough blocker to get the job done and is smart and athletic enough to contribute on special teams.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	12/12	7	16	2.3	1	15	192	0
2003	12/6	1	4	4.0	0	12	71	0
2004	12/2	20	111	5.6	0	15	91	1
2005	12/8	19	138	7.3	0	29	252	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

FB

#2

Lawrence VICKERS
COLORADO

HT: 6-0 WT: 233 40-YARD: 4.84

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	11/0	7	25	3.6	0	1	7	0
2003	11/6	28	100	3.6	1	15	123	1
2004	13/7	63	252	4.0	2	28	290	0
2005	13/7	73	258	3.5	9	26	152	2

UPSIDE: Converted high school running back with nice run skills, vision and instincts for a fullback. Has size potential to add 15 pounds. Keeps his legs churning after contact and can pick up some tough yards. Has soft hands, catches the ball outside his frame and has solid production out of the backfield. Can be a one-back. Shows the athletic ability and agility to adjust on the move and does a solid job covering kicks.

DOWNSIDE: Needs to do a better job of securing the ball. Lacks bulk and bulk strength and could use more time in the weight room. Not a blow-up blocker and is not very strong at the point of attack. Average speed.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not quick or fast enough to line up at tailback and needs to get bigger and stronger to develop into a full-time fullback. Ability to contribute on special teams will help him secure a roster spot.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

FB

#3

Matt BERNSTEIN
WISCONSIN

HT: 6-0½ WT: 267 40-YARD: 4.87

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	14/9	20	66	3.3	3	5	34	0
2003	13/7	29	120	4.1	0	8	79	0
2004	12/12	83	300	3.6	1	9	68	0
2005	5/3	6	22	3.7	1	0	0	0

UPSIDE: Has great size and strength and can be overpowering at the point of attack. Plays with a good, wide base and is capable of clearing lanes on the move. Strong at the point of attack. Showed he could be effective as a runner vs. Penn State as a junior, when he filled in as an emergency tailback and rushed for 127 yards on 23 carries.

DOWNSIDE: Too stiff and not overly athletic. Strains to swivel his head and adjust to the ball in the flat. Suffered a sports-hernia injury that limited him for much of his senior season, and he did not want to practice, drawing questions about his mental toughness. Does not have great body control, and his feet will go dead on contact when attacking head-on.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Better outside lead blocker than inside, Bernstein has an intimidating build and is somewhat similar to Saints 2004 fifth-round pick Mike Karney, although not as much of a hammer.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

FB

#4

Naufahu TAHI
BRIGHAM YOUNG

HT: 5-11½ WT: 240½ 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
1999	11/0	102	445	4.4	2	10	72	0
2003	12/0	34	77	2.3	1	14	144	2
2004	11/5	93	339	3.6	5	16	139	1
2005	12/5	97	497	5.1	6	41	375	2

UPSIDE: Moves very well for a fullback and is quick to and through the hole. Productive in what he is asked to do in a veer-option offense. Has above-average vision and shows some make-you-miss ability. Can pick up some yards after contact. Lines up in the slot and can stretch the seam. Catches the ball well and shows some run skills in the open field. Versatile. Can be a fullback or one-back. Plays hard and competes. Married.

DOWNSIDE: Not a true fullback who is going to clear room as a lead blocker. Lacks ideal height. Does not run with power and is not a smashmouth blocker. Lacks great running skills as a one-back and has not played H-back.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Played in a role similar to that of Dolphins 1999 second-round pick Rob Konrad at Syracuse, Tahi could fit as a fullback, H-back or move tight end. Has the versatility to attract interest from a team that uses a West Coast offense.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

FB

#5

David KIRTMAN
USC

HT: 6-0e WT: 230e 40-YARD: 4.8e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	8/8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	12/1	5	23	4.6	0	5	28	0
2004	13/4	8	45	5.6	0	19	161	1
2005	13/13	8	26	3.2	1	22	281	1

UPSIDE: Has good hands and can catch balls away from his frame. Can adjust to the ball. Self-made, blue-collar worker who wants to improve and will go the extra mile to bulk up and develop. Comes from a football family and understands the game. Can contribute on special teams. Improving blocker who gives good effort.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal bulk and needs to get stronger. Not as big and powerful as scouts would like. Not a smashmouth blocker. Not very tough or physical. Has been a part-time starter and plays in a rotation. Has very modest production and rarely carries the ball. Can do a better job finishing blocks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Among the few blockers who has opened holes and provided protection for two Heisman winners, Kirtman has gradually earned more playing time because of his grit, effort and determination. Developmental project who can make a team on special teams.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 7TH ROUND

FB

#6

Gilbert HARRIS
ARIZONA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 223 40-YARD: 4.65e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2002	7/3	18	56	3.1	0	5	81	0
2003	8/3	3	8	2.7	1	10	86	0
2004	7/0	67	285	4.3	2	11	76	0
2005	11/7	79	284	3.6	5	22	107	2

UPSIDE: Well built and really looks the part. Has very good hands and can contribute in the receiving game. Can handle some inside running.

DOWNSIDE: Does not always slam it inside the way scouts would like. Average burst. Only knows one speed. Not fast or skilled enough to be a featured runner and not tough enough to face up defenders as a blocker. Does not show much interest in blocking. Shows some stiffness as a route-runner. Thinks he is better than he is. Has questionable character and still needs to mature. Does not have great passion for the game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A classic tweener with a tailback's mentality, Harris has not shown the toughness and desire to handle lead blocking in the pros. If he can bulk up and stay focused, he may have a chance to develop in a West Coast offense. Many teams won't extend more than a camp invitation.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► FREE AGENT



BEST OF THE REST

- RASHON POWERS-NEAL** | Notre Dame
Great hands, but not the RB he thinks he is.
- SHAWN WILLIS** | Oklahoma State
Big, physical iso-blocker restricted by new "O."
- JASON DAVIS** | Illinois
Limited by new offense but has good hands.
- NICK HARTIGAN** | Brown
Very productive Ivy League RB projects to FB.
- BRANDON JONES** | Purdue
Running back trapped in fullback's body.
- DACCUS TURMAN** | South Carolina
Catches the ball well but not a pounder.
- ANTHONY CARFAGNO** | E. Stroudsburg
Natural hands could help D-II standout.
- JAKE SLAUGHTER** | Auburn
Tough, between-the-tackles smasher.
- J.D. RUNNELS** | Oklahoma
Has decent hands and athletic ability.
- B.J. DEAN** | Florida State
Could contribute on special teams.

WR PROSPECTS

What could have been the year of the receiver, had Larry Fitzgerald and Mike Williams stayed in school for the duration of their college careers, is instead one of the weakest receiving classes to come along in the last few decades, with no surefire senior first-rounders. The early exit of underclassmen has produced five of an NFL-record 13 receivers drafted in the first round in a two-year span, watering down the talent at the position in the senior class.

If there were ever a year where the junior class could make an impact on the draft, this would be it, but even the junior class leaves much to be desired. The top junior, Ohio State's Santonio Holmes, could be the only receiver selected in the first round. He follows in the footsteps of former Buckeyes Terry Glenn and David Boston, both of whom left school early and struggled to maintain their success in the pros because of their immaturity. Likewise, scouts are not convinced

Holmes will be able to stay focused in the pros after a big payday.

The fastest receiver in the draft may be Sinorice Moss, younger brother of Redskins WR Santana Moss, although he too, like Holmes, is undersized. In recent years, receivers have seemed to grow increasingly bigger, with Lee Evans being the smallest of the seven first-round receivers drafted in 2004 at nearly 5-11, 200 pounds and Mark Clayton, about the same size, the smallest of six first-rounders last year. This year, Evans and Clayton would be the biggest of the elite talent, with smaller receivers like Steve Smith, Joey Galloway and Santana Moss showing that size takes a backseat to speed and savvy in the NFL.

Several quarterbacks are being projected to receiver, including Penn State's Michael Robinson, Missouri's Brad Smith and Texas A&M's Reggie McNeal. All three are good enough athletes to get looks on the first day and may be projected to other positions by assorted teams.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

D

WR

1

Santonio HOLMES [JR.]

OHIO STATE

HT: 5-10 1/2e WT: 185e 40-YARD: 4.45e

UPSIDE: Shows an explosive burst to quickly eat the cushion of defensive backs and the deep speed to separate vs. man coverage. Has shown the ability to turn a three-yard gain into an 80-yard touchdown. Shows nice savvy as a route runner and knows how to set up defenders with nods, stems and double moves. Does not break stride to haul in the ball and shows good body control and natural hands. Can track the deep ball and adjust to it over his shoulder. Tough and will cross the middle unfazed by traffic. Sticks to defenders as a blocker. Has return ability.

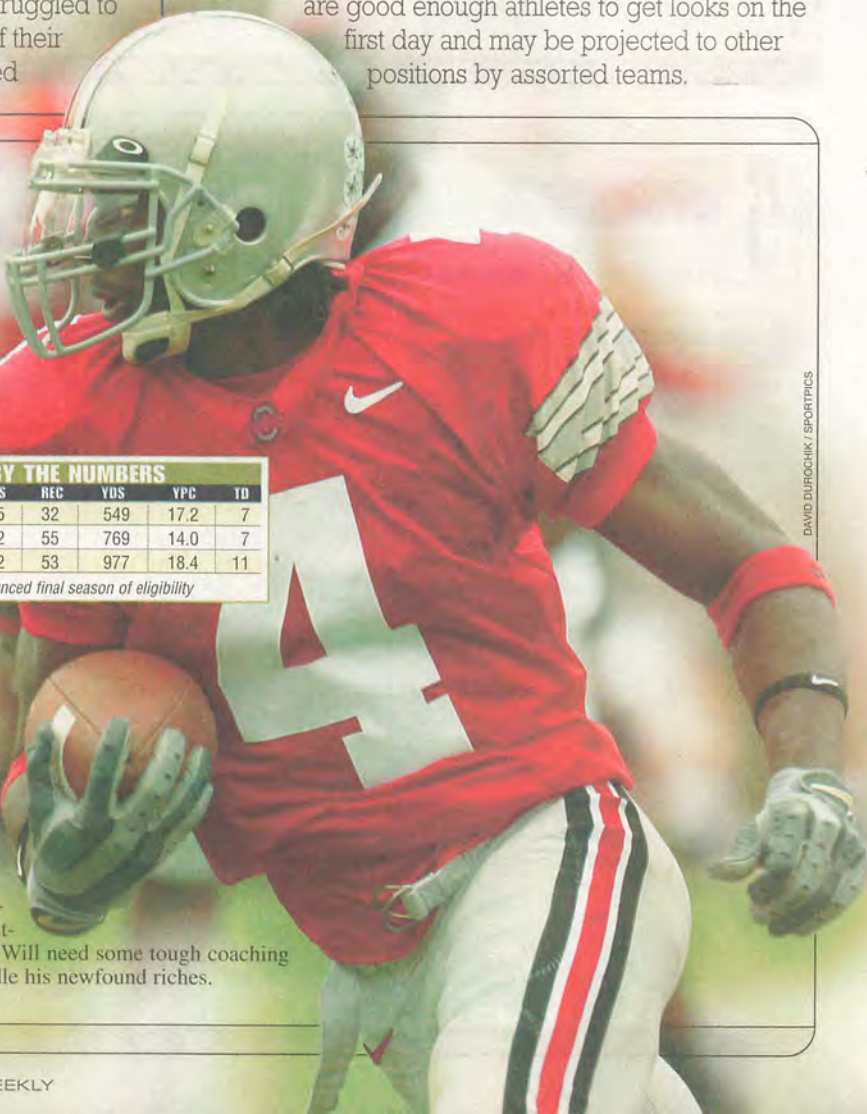
DOWNSIDE: Is not as big as scouts would like. Too cocky and can get demonstrative and shut it down when the ball is not coming his way or when he is getting pressed. Called for several unsportsmanlike penalties for celebrating. Will make some concentration drops. Ego could need to be put in check.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Played on sprained foot estimated only to be 75 percent healthy as a junior and his talents were not always easy to see in a very conservative, ball-control offense. He is similar to 1996 first-round pick Terry Glenn and carries a similar swagger. Will need some tough coaching to maximize his potential, and he must be able to handle his newfound riches.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/RS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2003	12/5	32	549	17.2	7
2004	12/12	55	769	14.0	7
2005	12/12	53	977	18.4	11

Renounced final season of eligibility



DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

WR

#2

Sinorice
MOSS

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 5-8e WT: 185e 40-YARD: 4.4e



UPSIDE: Has explosive, gamebreaking ability with a second gear to accelerate and fly by defensive backs. Has big-play potential. Has NFL bloodlines. Very confident. Quick in and out of his breaks and is difficult to mirror. Elusive in the open field and can create after the catch. Has natural hands and outstanding body control to adjust to the flight of the ball and make acrobatic grabs. Good leaping ability. Moves fluidly. Works hard and football is important to him. Has traits to contribute in the return game.

DOWNSIDE: Very diminutive, fragile frame. Has a checkered injury history, with ankle, knee, hamstring and concussion injuries limiting him throughout his career, especially upon his arrival. Not very physical and could have trouble beating tight, press coverage. Used mostly on the perimeter, and his routes too easily get altered in traffic. Only a one-year starter. Has very little return experience. Not a great blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not as tough as former teammate and Bills 2005 second-round pick Roscoe Parrish and has similar injury concerns. The success his brother Santana, drafted 16th overall in 2001, has had in Washington should work to Sinorice's advantage. Although he is not as big, accomplished or as much of a playmaker as Santana, who holds school records in receiving and punt-return yardage, Sinorice has shown the same explosive traits to overcome his lack of size and shined in the Senior Bowl as the game's MVP.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	12/0	3	30	10.0	0
2003	13/0	8	111	13.9	0
2004	11/4	20	351	17.5	3
2005	12/11	37	614	16.6	6

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

WR

#3

Chad
JACKSON [JR.]

FLORIDA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Well-defined and really looks the part. Naturally athletic and has great body control and jumping ability. Fluid route runner. Will go up and take the ball away from the defender. Can make the acrobatic, one-handed, leaping grabs. Very productive and led the Southeastern Conference in receiving. Carried 15 times for 87 yards and two TDs and shows some make-you-miss ability on the move. Only 20 years old and has tremendous potential.

DOWNSIDE: Did not play in a pro-style offense. Ran a lot of digs, ins and short routes and was rarely used vertically. Does not show true sprinter's, top-end speed or long acceleration. Not very nifty or quick getting into and coming out of breaks. Has concentration lapses and drops balls he should catch. Too deliberate as a route runner and does not get a lot of separation. Not a great blocker. Needs to learn to read coverages.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Top playmaker and go-to receiver in Gators' spread-option offense. Florida receivers historically have struggled to transition to the pros coming out of Steve Spurrier's unorthodox Fun 'n' Gun offense, and Urban Meyer's offense is not a lot different. From Taylor Jacobs to Jabar Gaffney to Reche Caldwell to Travis Taylor, Gator receivers have been slow to adapt to the pro game, and Jackson may need some time before he is ready to contribute. Should develop into a solid starter by Year Three and will likely require some patience.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2003	13/0	3	38	12.7	1
2004	12/3	29	648	22.3	6
2005	12/12	88	900	10.2	9

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

WR

#4

Demetrius
WILLIAMS

OREGON

HT: 6-1½ WT: 184 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Silky smooth with the ability to drop his weight in and out of breaks and quickly adjust to and highpoint the ball. Has very easy hands and can catch balls off his toes and snatch off-target passes. Has good length and range to create mismatch problems, and matched up very favorably vs. Fresno State CB Richard Marshall. Naturally athletic. Knows how to release cleanly and can stretch the field vertically. Shows the ability to get over the top of defensive backs and covers a lot of ground with long strides. Good competitive speed. Studies the game. Great worker. Tremendous competitor.

DOWNSIDE: Can polish his routes and do a better job fitting between zones. Not overly elusive in the open field. Not used in the middle of the field a lot and some scouts question his toughness. Can give more effort as a blocker. Can add more bulk and strength to his thin frame and be more physical. Looks out of sync with quarterback. Not a true difference-maker and showed he could be eliminated from game plan vs. Oklahoma in bowl game. Durability is a minor concern.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Williams battled a turf toe injury that slowed his production as a junior, but he had a great senior year after returning to full health. A cross between Todd Pinkston and Chad Johnson, both drafted 36th overall in 2000 and '01, respectively, Williams has the size, playmaking ability, work habits and competitive zeal to develop into an NFL starter.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	11/0	5	73	14.6	0
2003	13/12	51	935	18.3	8
2004	9/9	47	593	12.6	2
2005	12/12	59	1,059	17.9	10

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

WR

#5

Michael
ROBINSON

PENN STATE

HT: 6-1 WT: 218 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Big, smart, tough and physical. Outstanding character and on-field leadership qualities. Very intelligent and had to learn multiple positions early in his career and be prepared to play receiver and running back and back up at quarterback. Versatile and has the toughness to play safety or even outside linebacker in the right scheme. Very athletic and has fluid movement skills. Will drop his shoulder and run through tacklers. Shows gamebreaking ability. Has the arm strength to drive the deep ball downfield, can throw on the move and can bring added value in special situations. Elusive.

DOWNSIDE: Has limited experience at receiver and lacks polish as a route runner. Will need some time to develop and may not make an immediate contribution.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Similar physical talent to Raiders 2002 seventh-round selection Ronald Curry, who was drafted as a quarterback and converted to receiver. Robinson had more experience in the slot in college than Curry did in college and Robinson's learning curve should be shorter. Robinson compares favorably to Cardinals 2003 54th overall pick Anquan Boldin, who converted from quarterback early in his career at Florida State, and adds versatility to his great combination of size, speed, smarts and toughness that could make him very attractive on Draft Day. Could be a great fit for a team like the Steelers, which has a successful track record with converting quarterbacks to the slot.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS
2002	13/2	10	17	58.8%	119
2003	11/7	62	138	44.9%	892
2004	9/3	14	39	35.9%	170
2005	12/12	162	311	52.1%	2,350

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND



DEREK HAGAN | ARIZONA STATE

#6

Derek
HAGAN

ARIZONA STATE

HT: 6-1½ WT: 202 40-YARD: 4.54

UPSIDE: Well-built with the size to create some mismatch problems. Comes out of his breaks fast and under control. Played faster as a senior than he did as a junior and has shown steady improvement. Knows how to work zones and uncover. Production has been consistently outstanding with three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Has quick hands. Can adjust to poorly thrown balls and track them downfield.

DOWNSIDE: Drops too many balls. Not creative after the catch and rarely picks up more than three yards after the reception. Non-competitive downfield blocker who could have sprung some big plays in the running game had he given more effort. Will stop in his tracks on the back side

instead of hunting down a defender to block. Doesn't attack the ball or like going over the middle much, and his arms tend to get shorter when he hears footsteps. Does not show the desire to compete on special teams. Lacks top-end speed and gets little separation. Most of his catches are contested. Shows too much stutter in his movement. Not a natural catcher and likes to cradle the ball.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Does not show the speed or gear change to be more than a possession receiver in the NFL and needs to improve his concentration and focus and develop more confidence in his hands. Shows some similarities to Broncos WR Rod Smith, the most productive receiver ever to enter the league undrafted.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	14/3	32	405	12.7	0
2003	12/10	66	1,076	16.3	9
2004	12/11	83	1,248	15.0	10
2005	12/12	77	1,210	15.7	8

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

WR

#7 Jason
AVANT

MICHIGAN

HT: 6-1e WT: 210e 40-YARD: 4.6e



UPSIDE: Very quick, dependable hands and great concentration to make difficult grabs. Shows good body control to adjust to off-target balls. Natural athlete. Runs good routes. Shows great field awareness and knows where he needs to get to move the chains. Very good working underneath to find open areas. Is very reliable as a red-zone target and has come through in clutch situations. Shows the toughness to work across the middle. Has smooth movement skills and can bend for the low ball, jump to get it and quickly snap his head around and find it. Attacks the ball. Strong, pesky downfield blocker. Very solid character. Works hard, studies his craft and shows a passion for the game.

DOWNSIDE: Not a burner and struggles some to beat press coverage vs. NFL-caliber defensive backs. Could use his hands better to release cleanly off the line. Does not show explosive, top-end speed to be more than a complementary receiver and is not going to stretch the field vertically. Not an overly gifted or creative runner and is not going to pick up much yardage after the catch. Has limited upside. Not going to contribute much on special teams and has no return value.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Emerged as the go-to guy in the absence of Braylon Edwards, but is not as fast and may never be more than an underneath, slot receiver in the pros. A good, productive and dependable player.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	12/0	2	21	10.5	0
2003	12/7	47	772	16.4	2
2004	11/11	38	447	11.8	3
2005	12/12	82	1,007	12.3	8

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#8

Maurice
STOVALL

NOTRE DAME

HT: 6-4½ WT: 220 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Big, tough and comes up with clutch catches in crucial situations. Creates mismatch problems with his great size and is very good in the red zone. Has long arms, a giant wingspan and good body control to adjust to the ball and pluck it out of the air. Covers a lot of ground with big strides and has good competitive speed to gain a step on defenders. Tough enough to play special teams. Has a frame capable of supporting 20 more pounds, and some teams even like him as an H-back. Gave more effort and improved as a blocker as a senior.

DOWNSIDE: Has inconsistent hands and went through some stretches where he failed to make some easy catches. Not always a very confident catcher and could improve his concentration. High-cut with a thin lower body. Not very quick in and out of his breaks and does not show a great initial burst off the line of scrimmage. Not a sudden mover and is not overly creative after the catch.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Did not live up to expectations until Charlie Weis arrived in South Bend and reinvented him. Stovall responded to Weis' challenge to drop 15 pounds and made big strides as a senior in a new pro-style offense, showing improved quickness and more precise route running. Excels best in a structured environment. A faster version of Jaguars 2004 fourth-round pick Ernest Wilford, who developed rapidly in the pros despite average size.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	13/0	18	312	17.3	3
2003	12/3	22	421	19.1	3
2004	9/8	21	313	14.9	1
2005	12/12	69	1,149	16.7	11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE WR

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in WR prospects

Great receivers find a way to get open and catch the ball. To beat tight coverage, a receiver must be able to **separate** using speed or **savvy** route-running. After they get open, they must possess enough **body control** to adjust to the ball and sure **hands** to bring it in.

SEPARATION

A product of speed, size or savvy, separation gives the quarterback a clear lane to throw the ball. NFL defenders are so fast that open receivers look different in the pros than they do at all other levels. The great receivers find a way to get a step on defenders and give quarterbacks a bigger window to hit. Tremendous pure size and speed alone, as possessed by Randy Moss, do not guarantee separation. Some of the most accomplished receivers, such as Steve Largent and Jerry Rice, never had great speed but were able to separate with their savvy.

BODY CONTROL

Being able to contort your body in the air to grab the most off-target, poorly thrown ball, even if it means laying out parallel to the ground to reach it. Adjusting to the ball in the air, whether it be reaching low to pick it up off the toes or plucking it out of the sky. Lynn Swann looked so graceful skying for the ball because he had great body control.

HANDS

Great receivers do not double-catch or cradle the ball, they easily haul it in the way they would catch an egg with soft hands. They can extend outside the frame of their body with great concentration to make acrobatic, one-handed grabs. They can catch as easily over the shoulder in full stride amidst traffic as they can stationary with no one around them and do not change their approach toward the ball with defenders flying at them fast in pursuit.

SAVVY

Route running is an art. Great receivers make every route look the same over the first eight yards and keep defenders on their heels. They know precisely what depth they need to come out of their breaks to uncover. They have the field awareness to know exactly where yard-markers are and the distance they need to reach to pick up first downs. They know how to eat a defensive back's cushion with stems and nods and get them to open their hips precisely when a route calls to be broken off. They work back to the ball, catch it at its highest point and do not need to break stride to bring it in. They know how to work the sideline, exploit open areas in coverage and create after the catch.

— N.N.

WIDE RECEIVER PROTOTYPE: Jerry Rice

The most savvy and polished receiver to play the game, his work ethic was legendary.

WIDE RECEIVER 6'2" 200 lbs.

QB RB WR TE OL LB CB S

PFW PHOTO ARCHIVE


WR

#9

Mike HASS

OREGON STATE

HT: 6-0 1/2 WT: 209 40-YARD: 4.55e



DAVID DUBOCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

UPSIDE: Very, very savvy route runner who knows how to set up defensive backs with stems, nods and double moves and has a great intuitive feel for getting open precisely when he needs to. Knows how to beat tight press coverage and work zones to find soft spots. Outstanding competitor. Has excellent hands, long arms for his size and the body control to adjust to any ball thrown near him. Catches the ball without breaking stride and does not have to gather to cut. Clutch performer who produces big plays in critical situations. Highly respected team captain who sets a great example with his tireless work habits. Will play hurt and is very tough and durable. Very motivated. Solid character.

DOWNSIDE: Not a great natural athlete. Does not have top-flight speed and is not going to outrun many NFL DBs. Most of his catches are contested, and he is not very agile or elusive to create after the catch. Can be tracked down from behind.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Hass went largely unrecruited out of high school, despite tremendous production, because he lacked top-end speed, but he quickly earned a scholarship at OSU as a walk-on and has exceeded all expectations, overcome the odds and proven everyone wrong. A classic overachiever who is bigger than Colts slot WR Brandon Stokley but not quite as quick or fast and would excel in a rhythm passing game. Has drawn some comparisons to Ricky Proehl and could play a long time in the league.

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	12/0	0	0	0.0	0
2003	13/13	44	1,013	23.0	7
2004	12/12	86	1,379	16.0	7
2005	11/11	90	1,532	17.0	6

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD ROUND

WR

#10

Brad SMITH

MISSOURI

HT: 6-2 WT: 209 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Exciting playmaker who shows the ability to create with the ball in his hands. Very smart and is able to learn quickly. Plays like a coach on the field and garners the respect of one from teammates. Great character. Outstanding worker. Extremely productive and has rewritten Missouri's record books. Naturally athletic. Shows nice vision, good run instincts and some elusiveness as a runner and is difficult to hit squarely. Runs patiently and allows blockers to set up. Tough and physical and shows some tackle-breaking ability. Shows competitive speed to escape from the pack. Very durable. Has the traits to contribute as a returner. Some teams think he is tough enough to play safety, and he could be an emergency quarterback.

DOWNSIDE: Takes some time to accelerate with build-up speed and is not overly quick or explosive. Has limited experience running routes and will need some time to be groomed. Needs to get bigger and stronger and will need to learn how to block. Has not shown the accuracy and decision-making to excel at quarterback and is a developmental project as an athlete. Struggled to get off the line and beat the jam at the Hula Bowl and couldn't shake defensive backs.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A better athlete than quarterback, Smith has the physical tools and athleticism to successfully transition to receiver. He's very smart and has a quarterback's understanding of offense, which should help him develop more rapidly.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD INT
2002	12/12	196	366	53.6%	2,333	15 6
2003	13/13	211	350	60.3%	1,977	11 7
2004	11/11	191	369	51.8%	2,185	17 11
2005	12/12	237	399	59.4%	2,304	13 9

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

SINORICE MOSS

SPEEDY MIAMI WIDE RECEIVER DREAMS OF FOLLOWING HIS BROTHER'S PATH TO THE NFL

By Chris Neubauer

Sinorice Moss was so fast as a youth that kids in his Miami neighborhood tried to devise ways to slow him down.

So in addition to the typical backyard football rules — the sidewalk is out of bounds, no tackling on the sidewalk, the fire hydrant and the maple tree form the goal line, etc. — amendments were made to the Backyard Football Constitution when Sinorice Moss played with his older brother Santana's friends.

Mind you, Sinorice is more than four years younger than Santana, but the neighborhood boys still needed to find a plan to combat Sinorice's quick feet.

"My brother's friends always wanted us to be on their teams because we were always the fastest guys on the block. Everybody wanted us to be on their team," Sinorice Moss said. "When my brother used to choose his team, they were like, 'Nah, you can't choose your little brother.' There was always that rule that you could not get your little brother on the same team as you. Not really understanding it at a young age, I used to laugh and be like, 'Nah, they're cheating. I want to be on the same team as my brother.'"

Sinorice Moss still hasn't had a chance to play on Santana's team. Instead, he's been stuck following in Santana's footsteps since he started playing football at age 7. Santana attended Carol City High School in Miami. Sinorice attended Carol City a few years later. After high school, Santana became a record-setting football and track star at the University of Miami. When Sinorice graduated high school, he, too, made the short trip to "The U," where he

1,100-yard receiving seasons in his brief NFL career. But the constant comparisons haven't fazed Sinorice Moss one bit.

"Surprisingly not. It hasn't bothered me at all," Sinorice Moss said. "A lot of people ask me, 'Is there pressure?' I mean, not at all. I know I have the ability to go out there and do some of the same things that he's done for this university and in the pros. I've just got to do my thing. I'm not Santana; I'm myself. The best thing I can do is go out there and perform to the best of my ability."

Those abilities are very similar between the Moss brothers. Each Moss stands less than 6 feet tall — Sinorice is listed at 5-foot-8 and Santana is 5-foot-10 — and each Moss is almost always the fastest man on his team, if not on the field.

"There's a lot of similarities between me and my brother," Sinorice Moss said. "We're kind of like the same shape and size with our legs, the way we run routes and catch passes and explode — it's kind of the same."

Lucky for him, it's been a stellar year for short receivers, who typically make NFL scouts and personnel men take a second look because they lack the prototype 6-foot or taller frame. Santana Moss, Steve Smith and Joey Galloway were all at the top of the NFL receiving charts this season. And all three stand under 6 feet.

"It opened up a lot of coaches' eyes this season with my brother performing well, Steve Smith and a lot of other smaller receivers in the NFL going up and making big plays," Sinorice Moss said during the 2005 season. "By me having the year I'm having going into the draft, I'm sure that a lot of guys think smaller receivers are guys that they need. So I've got

to keep doing what I do. (They) really opened

FAST FACT: MOSS HAD MORE CATCHES, YARDS AND TDS IN '05 THAN IN THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS COMBINED

earned accolades in football and track.

Now, Santana Moss is a former first-round pick and bona fide NFL star, playing wide receiver for the Redskins.

Santana set some pretty high standards — he's Miami's all-time leading receiver and has two

the doors this year."

After spending a lifetime running behind his brother, Sinorice is ready to join Santana in the NFL, and he certainly would not mind getting a chance to finally play on the same team.

"That would be great. That's a double threat right there. A lot of my friends, they always say, 'What if you get drafted by the Redskins?' I just laugh. I really don't know the possibility of that," Sinorice Moss said. "But a lot of people say, 'You and your brother on the same team, that would be speed over here and speed over there.' It would be great to be on the same team as my brother, just learning from him, and he may learn different things from me. Just being together would be great."

This time, there are no rules stopping the Moss brothers from lining up on the same side.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

WR

#11

Greg
JENNINGS

WESTERN MICHIGAN

HT: 5-10½ WT: 195 40-YARD: 4.53

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	8/0	10	138	13.8	0
2003	12/4	56	1,050	18.8	14
2004	11/11	74	1,092	14.8	11
2005	11/11	98	1,259	12.8	14

UPSIDE: Outstanding production. Makes big plays in big games and has risen to the challenge vs. top competition (16-156-1 vs. Virginia as senior and 10-107-2 vs. Michigan State as sophomore). Smooth route runner. Has natural hands and ball skills, and catches the ball with ease outside his frame and over his shoulder. Tough and will cross through traffic. Shows enough quickness, make-you-miss ability and short-area burst to contribute as a returner. Great character. Smart.

DOWNSIDE: Not very big or fast. Has not regularly matched up vs. top competition. Not an accomplished blocker. Rarely asked to run vertical routes.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Small receivers generally need to be able to fly to make an impact in the pros. Jennings is most productive underneath working short zones and projects as a possession receiver in the NFL, but he showed he might be more at the East-West Shrine game.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

WR

#12

Brandon
WILLIAMS

WISCONSIN

HT: 5-9½ WT: 174 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	14/6	52	663	12.8	3
2003	13/13	49	649	13.2	1
2004	12/12	42	517	12.3	0
2005	13/13	59	1,095	18.5	9

UPSIDE: Quick, shift and has good change of direction and short-area burst. Plays fast and shows enough speed to get behind defensive backs. Savvy route runner. Tough for his size and has nice elusiveness after the catch to factor into the return game, with two punt returns for TDs as a senior. Natural receiver who can make some acrobatic grabs. Good football intelligence. Outstanding career production, breaking Lee Evans' Badgers career mark for catches. Can learn multiple positions, and return skills could elevate draft status.

DOWNSIDE: Below-average size and is not as big or fast as scouts would like. Does not have elite speed. Not very strong or built to withstand contact in the NFL game. Lack of size limits effectiveness as a blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Size could keep him from ever being more than a No. 3 rotational receiver, but he is a good football player who can make a living as a returner.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

WR

#13

Greg
LEE [JR.]

PITTSBURGH

HT: 6-1½e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2003	8/5	10	211	21.1	0
2004	12/12	68	1,297	19.1	10
2005	11/11	49	962	19.6	7

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has nice size. Solid production. Led the Big East in receiving yards as a sophomore and as a junior. Shows some savvy to open a defensive back's hips and break off his routes. Plays faster than he will time. Highpoints the ball and can adjust to poorly thrown passes. Uses his body well to shield defenders from the ball.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks top-end speed and can be slow to get off the line, and will have a difficult time beating press coverage. Still very rough around the edges. Has to chop his feet to cut. Does not make a lot of catches inside the numbers. Drops some easy catches. Limited after the catch.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Learned firsthand from Larry Fitzgerald as a freshman and really came on late in the year before taking over the playmaking role as a sophomore and blossoming. Production slipped in a conservative offense with an erratic quarterback as a junior. Still has a long way to go.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

WR

#14

Martin
NANCE

MIAMI (OHIO)

HT: 6-3½ WT: 212 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	10/0	12	189	15.8	0
2003	14/14	90	1,498	16.6	11
2004	5/5	25	337	13.5	1
2005	11/11	81	1,107	13.7	14

UPSIDE: Very good size with long limbs, a giant wingspan and big hands. Has the frame to get bigger. Can make some difficult catches. Smooth mover. Worked very hard to rehab from injury and has great character. Smart.

DOWNSIDE: Not a burner. Takes long strides and gathers to cut. Drops some easy catches and will cradle-catch. Not very strong and could do a better job of using his hands to beat the jam. Tends to drift in his routes and does not make very sharp cuts. Not a very strong or creative runner after the catch. Knee injury (2004) is a minor concern.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: As a senior, he did not look fully recovered from the torn anterior cruciate ligament injury that ended his junior season early, and he began the season playing more tentatively than he did as Ben Roethlisberger's go-to guy as a sophomore. If he returns to full health, he could prove to have great value.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

WR

#15

Hank
BASKETT

NEW MEXICO

HT: 6-2½ WT: 219 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

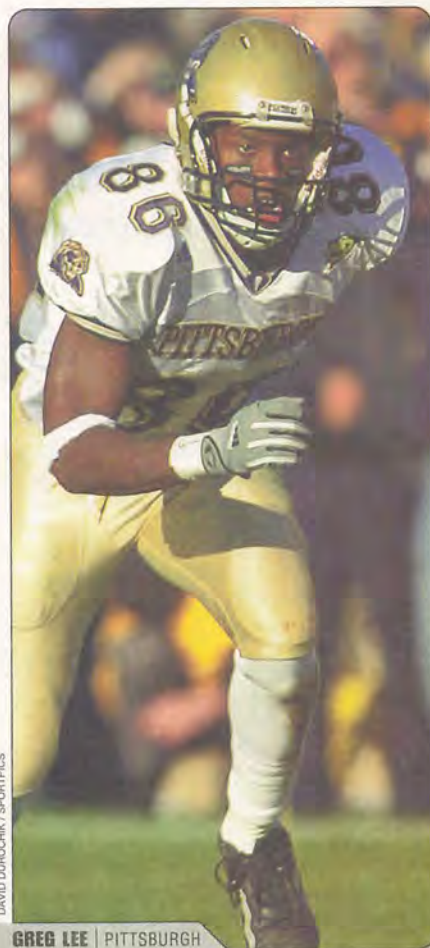
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	7/0	2	21	10.5	2
2003	13/2	17	288	16.9	3
2004	12/12	54	908	16.8	3
2005	11/11	67	1,071	16.0	9

UPSIDE: Production has improved every year. Has excellent size and creates mismatch problems with his natural strength and physical style. Knows how to use his body to shield defenders from the ball. Competed in the high jump for UNM's track team and has great leaping ability. Can outjump and outmuscle smaller defensive backs in the endzone. Runs hard after the catch. Comes from a military family and is disciplined. Smart, tough and confident. Blue-collar worker.

DOWNSIDE: Takes time to build up speed. Has not faced top competition in Mountain West Conference. Can do a better job avoiding contact off the line of scrimmage and releasing cleanly. Has missed some time with injuries, including a spinal bruise, knee sprain and concussion.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Really emerged as a playmaker as a senior and should continue to get better, but he may never be more than a possession receiver.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND



GREG LEE | PITTSBURGH

DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTPICS

WR

#16 Travis WILSON

OKLAHOMA

HT: 6-2e WT: 215e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	8/0	5	50	10.0	1
2003	14/3	24	284	11.8	4
2004	13/8	50	660	13.2	11
2005	9/7	25	310	12.4	1

UPSIDE: As a junior, Wilson showed the savvy to beat press coverage and flashed big-play potential opposite Mark Clayton. Has good size and athletic ability and shows the run strength and enough elusiveness to pick up chunks of yardage after the catch and on reverses. Is tough and will work underneath and take a hit. Aggressive blocker.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have top-end speed. Durability has been an issue with shoulder, ankle and foot injuries limiting him throughout his career. Can run more crisp routes. Likes to cradle-catch. Can lose focus at times. Not a great worker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Production really dropped off as a senior as he fought through injuries and was handcuffed by a quarterback who struggled to get him the ball. He is not as athletic as any of the three Oklahoma receivers drafted on the first day a year ago — Mark Clayton, Mark Bradley or Brandon Jones — and disappointed scouts with a lackluster senior season.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND



DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

TRAVIS WILSON | OKLAHOMA

WR

#17 Jeff WEBB

SAN DIEGO STATE

HT: 6-1½ WT: 200 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	11/0	16	212	13.3	0
2003	10/9	55	706	12.8	4
2004	11/10	71	863	12.2	6
2005	12/11	92	1,109	12.1	10

UPSIDE: Has good size and long arms. Hands are strong to beat the jam. Is deceptively fast and shows the ability to separate deep. Attacks the ball and shows good ball skills. Best working outside the hashes and can track the long ball over his shoulder and easily adjust to it. Shows good concentration and makes some difficult catches. Has a swagger.

DOWNSIDE: Not a blazer and does not show much elusiveness after the catch. Needs some reps to learn. Questionable character. Thinks he is better than he is and is not a great team player. Work habits have room for improvement. Not very tough and does not like to work across the middle. Disinterested blocker. Has had multiple surgeries on his right shoulder.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Big-play weapon who made his senior year his best. If he can keep a level head and commit himself to the game, he has a chance to become a solid No. 3 receiver.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH ROUND

WR

#18 Cory RODGERS [JR.]

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

HT: 6-0e WT: 195e 40-YARD: 4.4e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2003	13/2	37	590	15.9	5
2004	11/10	61	836	13.7	7
2005	12/11	52	685	13.2	5

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has good straight-line speed and can stretch the field vertically and get separation. Accelerates to top gear very quickly and has the speed to go the distance in the return game. Averaged more than 30 yards on 17 kickoff returns with two touchdowns and more than 15 yards on 19 punt returns, finishing in the Top 10 in both categories nationally.

DOWNSIDE: Is thinly built and wiry. Route running could use refinement. Can do a better job recognizing coverages. Gets stuck on the line of scrimmage and can do a better job getting free against press coverage. Not very strong and can improve as a blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Rodgers' pure speed and return skills will force teams to take a hard look at him on the first day, but he is still raw as a receiver and will take some time before he is ready to contribute. Can step in from Day One and upgrade a team's return game.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH ROUND

WR

#19 Delanie WALKER

CENTRAL MISSOURI ST.

HT: 6-0½ WT: 229 40-YARD: 4.56

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—
2004	11/11	48	623	13.0	4
2005	10/10	61	724	11.9	6

UPSIDE: Big, tough and physical. Looks the part. Fearless across the middle. Positions his body well to shield defenders. Wants the ball in clutch situations and is used as a runner and returner. Runs hard. Has good competitive speed and shows a second gear. Has the temperament to contribute on special teams and has some kick-off-return value. Hard worker. Has no fat.

DOWNSIDE: Hands are inconsistent. Has not faced top-notch competition. Not a polished route runner. Is not a burner and is rarely used vertically. Could struggle grasping an NFL playbook and may need extra reps.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was highly recruited by big programs like USC out of high school but failed to qualify academically and had to take the junior-college route. Stood out at the Division II level, but is he a big fish in a small pond? Developmental project with legit pro traits and potential. A little bit like Marty Booker of the Dolphins.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

WR

#20 Todd WATKINS

BYU

HT: 6-2½ WT: 185e 40-YARD: 4.45e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	DNP	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—
2004	11/11	52	1,042	20.0	6
2005	12/12	49	678	13.8	9

UPSIDE: Has good height. Shows explosive speed to gain separation downfield and get vertical. Accelerates to top-end speed quickly. Tracks it well over his shoulder and will go up to get it. Can adjust and run under the deep ball.

DOWNSIDE: Too thin and gets pushed around and redirected too easily. Needs to put on some weight. Not very tough or physical. Drops some easy passes that he should have caught. Not a great athlete. Too straight-linish. Gives more effort when he knows the ball is coming his way and needs to learn to play hard every down. Still has some junior-college work habits. Not very elusive in the open field.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has the top-end speed that teams must respect. Similar to Eagles undrafted free-agent WR Greg Lewis, who wound up in a starting role. Watkins may not get drafted very high but has the type of speed to earn himself considerable playing time.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH ROUND

WR

#21

Jonathan
ORR

WISCONSIN

HT: 6-1½ WT: 193 40-YARD: 4.34

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	14/13	47	842	17.9	8
2003	13/1	7	117	16.7	0
2004	12/0	13	177	13.6	3
2005	13/12	40	688	17.2	8

UPSIDE: Rare timed speed. Has above-average hands. Can stretch and open the field with his vertical speed. Smooth strider. Has big-play capability. Has been effective in the red zone.

DOWNSIDE: Played in an unsophisticated passing game with a QB who struggled to throw the deep ball. Doesn't play fast. Not a playmaker or a polished route runner and struggles to get open and create the separation that his 40 time would suggest. Production is too spotty and does not match ability. Too laid-back, lacks mental toughness and competitive zeal. Not much of a blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: If Orr remembers to play with the confidence he showed as a freshman, he could be dangerous. But if he continues to just coast like he has the last few years, he will be out of the NFL just as fast as former Wisconsin WR Tony Simmons was. Has some big-time traits, but whether he will ever extract the most from his ability is a major question mark.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH ROUND

WR

#22

Devin
AROMASHODU

AUBURN

HT: 6-1½ WT: 198 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	13/8	18	304	16.9	1
2003	13/13	3	22	7.3	0
2004	13/13	24	513	21.4	4
2005	12/10	26	494	19.0	4

UPSIDE: Runs nice routes and catches the ball easily outside his frame. Sinks his hips and can burst out of his breaks. Can accelerate and eat a defensive back's cushion quickly. Adjusts well to the deep ball and can track it over his shoulder. Has good leaping ability. Has some return ability.

DOWNSIDE: Does not show much of a second gear to separate and get over the top of receivers. Not very tough or physical. Looks to avoid contact inside if he has to cross the middle and does not like to be hit. Has small hands. Production has never been great. Not very smooth. Only works where there is minimal contact, from numbers to the sideline.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Emerged as more of a playmaker in the Tigers' offense as a senior and improved draft stock. Needed to show more consistency at the Senior Bowl. Would fit best in a vertical passing game featuring a lot of go routes and jump balls like the Raiders'.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH ROUND

WR

#23

Reggie
MCNEAL

TEXAS A&M

HT: 6-2 WT: 202 40-YARD: 4.32

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	COMP	ATT	COMP %	YDS	TD	INT
2002	8/1	24	45	53.3%	456	6	3
2003	12/11	113	221	51.1%	1,782	8	7
2004	12/12	200	344	58.1%	2,791	14	4
2005	10/10	141	265	53.2%	1,963	16	9

UPSIDE: Has excellent straight-line speed and great take-off when he pulls down the ball. Can accelerate and fly by tacklers. Showed playmaking ability from the QB position. Has strong legs and can run through tacklers. Has some versatility and can contribute as a returner and as an emergency quarterback. Will play hurt.

DOWNSIDE: Not very quick or shifty and has average change-of-direction ability. Very limited experience as a receiver and will need a lot of refinement. Too scatterbrained and lacks the intangibles necessary to command the quarterback position. Locker-room lawyer.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A better athlete than quarterback, McNeal is a developmental project with raw physical ability and true sprinter's speed. He may have to go north of the border to the CFL if he wants to continue his quarterbacking career, although MVP honors at East-West Shrine game will keep some NFL teams interested.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND



JONATHAN ORR | WISCONSIN

WR

#24

Jovon
BOUKNIGHT

WYOMING

HT: 6-1e WT: 222e 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	12/4	63	689	10.9	3
2003	12/12	47	746	15.9	7
2004	12/12	63	1,075	17.1	7
2005	11/11	77	1,116	14.5	12

UPSIDE: Incredibly productive, three-year starter. Plays faster than timed speed and makes a lot of big plays. Very good hands. Makes difficult catches look effortless. Has smooth movement skills and is quick in and out of his breaks. Naturally athletic to adjust to the ball. Works back to the ball and has good hands. Not affected by entering traffic. Runs patiently, allows blocks to develop and will battle for extra yards. Tough. Shows nice vision as a returner.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great size and is not a blazer. Can do a better job of beating press coverage. Lacks confidence. Durability is a minor issue with wrist and ankle injuries.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Flies under the radar playing for an unheralded program not heavily frequented by scouts, but Bouknight has gotten better every year and has demanded attention with his great production.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

WR

#25

Damarious
BILBO

GEORGIA TECH

HT: 6-1½ WT: 222 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	8/0	0	0	0.0	0
2003	7/1	2	55	27.5	0
2004	11/0	4	33	8.3	0
2005	12/12	40	591	14.8	2

UPSIDE: Naturally athletic with good body control to adjust to the ball and contort his body in the air. Tracks the ball well over his shoulder and can go up high to get it with soft hands. Good leaping ability. Quick and agile. Very strong upper body to wrestle with and post up defensive backs. Showed considerable improvement as a senior and showed he would sacrifice his body.

DOWNSIDE: Routes still need refinement. Does not have great vertical speed and could struggle getting off the line of scrimmage vs. press coverage. Could learn to use his hands better to release cleanly.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With more opportunities opposite frequently double-teamed sophomore teammate Calvin Johnson, the most talented collegiate receiver in the country in 2005, Bilbo made big strides and played a bigger role in the offense. Did not have a very good showing at the Hula Bowl, which won't help him.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

WR
#26 **Clinton SOLOMON**
IOWA
HT: 6-2½ WT: 199 40-YARD: 4.58

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	12/0	14	159	11.4	1
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—
2004	12/0	58	905	15.6	6
2005	12/11	46	800	17.4	7

UPSIDE: Solid production. Looks the part. Has good size and uses his frame well to shield defenders from the ball. Has big, reliable hands and long arms and catches most balls within his reach. Has nice balance and shows some make-you-miss ability. Capable of making big plays.

DOWNSIDE: Long-strider who takes time to build up speed. Not very quick or sudden. Struggles to get off the line of scrimmage vs. physical corners and could do a better job of releasing. Still learning how to run routes. Not very elusive in the open field and has limited run-after-the-catch ability. Could take better care of the ball. Marginal blocker. Needs structure in his life. Has a lazy trait and needs to play hard all the time.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has matured since leaving the Hawkeyes' program due to academics after his freshman year but must still become more of a worker to realize his dreams of playing professional football.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

WR
#27 **Ben OBOMANU**
AUBURN
HT: 6-0½ WT: 203 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	13/1	17	224	13.2	3
2003	13/11	22	373	17.0	3
2004	13/0	25	359	14.4	7
2005	12/11	33	357	10.8	5

UPSIDE: Tough and will work inside and make some difficult catches. Knows how to use his body to get positioning. Has long arms. Shows some run skills after the catch. Shows polish as a route runner with nice body control. Solid character. Has a good attitude.

DOWNSIDE: Not very quick-twitched and lacks top-end speed. Struggles to track the deep ball over the shoulder and is not much of a threat vertically. Rarely used downfield. Tends to cradle-catch and will cradle-catch in traffic. Not a great worker and has underachieved. Can be more physical and do a better job fending off the jam and defeating press coverage. Did not stand out at the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has not lived up to his press clippings coming out of high school and has not shown he could be more than a No. 4 or No. 5 receiver in the NFL. Will have to stand out on special teams to make a roster.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

WR
#28 **Ed HINKEL**
IOWA
HT: 6-0½ WT: 187 40-YARD: 4.51

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	13/13	22	218	9.9	1
2003	9/5	10	108	10.8	0
2004	12/12	63	744	11.8	7
2005	9/9	40	518	12.9	7

UPSIDE: Tough and will work across the middle and do the dirty work underneath. Shows great sideline awareness. Has a knack for finding open space, settling into zones and getting free. Attacks the ball. Great concentration. Can take a hit and bounce back up. Two-year team captain. Natural leader. Tough, smart and competitive. Tireless worker. Has some punt-return ability.

DOWNSIDE: Average deep speed and burst after the catch. Can get hemmed up by tight press coverage and have difficulty getting off the line. Gains little separation. Missed a big part of senior season with a broken arm and has a slight build that could make him more susceptible to injury.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A reliable possession receiver who could bring some value in third-down situations and in the return game. Capable of making a roster on guts, grit and determination.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH ROUND

WR
#29 **Willie REID**
FLORIDA STATE
HT: 5-10½ WT: 189 40-YARD: 4.45e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	10/0	6	37	6.2	0
2003	13/0	20	189	9.4	1
2004	11/0	15	186	12.4	1
2005	11/11	50	634	12.7	1

UPSIDE: Good athlete. Shows the quickness, vision and make-you-miss ability in the return game to sift through traffic, hit a crease and take it the distance. Can sink his hips and quickly change direction. Has adequate hands and works back to the ball. Self-starter. Works hard and is a respected, vocal team leader. Tough and loves to compete. Smart. Gives good effort blocking downfield. Returned three punts for touchdowns as a senior.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have ideal size or bulk and has a history of minor injuries, including hamstring, ankle and leg injuries. Not very strong and gets redirected too easily by physical corners. Does not have natural hands.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was highly recruited as a running back before making seamless transition to receiver and has bounced back and forth between two positions. Played very well down the stretch and could be drafted primarily to handle a returner role.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH ROUND

WR
#30 **Skyler GREEN**
LSU
HT: 5-9 WT: 197 40-YARD: 4.53

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	7/0	7	123	17.6	1
2003	14/4	48	519	10.8	5
2004	10/4	24	219	9.1	3
2005	13/4	32	268	8.4	0

UPSIDE: Quick and shifty, well-built runner with nice balance and a low center of gravity. Very strong upper body. Best attributes are his run instincts and return ability, with four career punt returns for touchdowns. Has good vision in the open field and nice feet to juke and sidestep tacklers. Turns his shoulders upfield quickly after the catch and shows a burst. Will play hurt. Smart, mature and modest.

DOWNSIDE: Is very short and blocky and has not been able to stay healthy, with knee and multiple ankle injuries. Playing time was cut down as a senior as he fell behind more talented underclassmen on the depth chart. Not a great route runner. Not very quick in and out of routes. Was locked down at the Senior Bowl and muffed a punt.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could struggle to make a roster as a No. 5 receiver, but return ability could give him a chance to stick on a team. Will have to make it as a return specialist.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

31. **BRANDON MARSHALL** | Central Florida
Improved stock at the Hula Bowl.
32. **ANTHONY MIX** | Auburn
Huge target could be moved to H-back.
33. **DAVID ANDERSON** | Colorado State
Limited by size but too productive to overlook.
34. **CHRIS HANNON** | Tennessee
Size-speed combination could get a chance.
35. **MARQUES COLSTON** | Hofstra
Big, physical receiver with some upside.
36. **MILES AUSTIN** | Monmouth (N.J.)
Big, West Coast receiver shined at D-IAA level.
37. **RICHIE ROSS** | Nebraska-Kearney
Outstanding career production at D-II level.
38. **BRIAN CLARK** | North Carolina State
Became go-to guy late in the year.
39. **DANNY MELENDEZ** | Maryland
Polished route runner could make a roster.
40. **JASON CARTER** | Texas A&M
Character concerns could leave him undrafted.



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TE PROSPECTS

This year's tight end class was boosted greatly by underclassmen, with three juniors expected to fit into the first day, including Maryland standout Vernon Davis, Georgia's Leonard Pope and Notre Dame's Anthony Fasano.

Physically, Davis is in a class by himself and could become the NFL's fastest tight end when he enters the league. He is a rare physical specimen with some special qualities.

UCLA's Mercedes Lewis was a great high school basketball player, following in the mold of Tony Gonzalez and Antonio Gates, and brings great athleticism to the position. He is not very fast, but neither are the other two.

Colorado's Joe Klopfenstein runs very well and is going to open some eyes with his speed. His production was unspectacular, but he was suffocated by defenses this year with almost no skill talent around him.

Leonard Pope has rare size and tremendous range to

haul in passes, but he is almost too big, and his length detracts from his ability to maneuver and maintain leverage.

USC's Dominique Byrd may have the best hands of any tight end in the class and is a natural receiver. Fasano's hands are nearly as good, but neither has the speed to threaten the seam.

There are a number of undersized but athletic tight ends who project to H-back in the pros and need to be used on the move. Texas' David Thomas, North Carolina State's T.J. Williams, Wisconsin's Owen Daniels and Tulsa's Garrett Mills all fit the mold. They will be most effective flexed out in the slot or in motion and could be very attractive to West Coast offenses.

Overall, the quality at the position is not spectacular, with only two likely first-rounders, but the depth is solid, with more than 15 tight ends holding draftable grades. Last year, there were only 10 drafted, and the average over the last 10 years is 15.

2006 CLASS GRADE:
B-

TE
#1

Vernon
DAVIS [JR.]

MARYLAND

HT: 6-2½e WT: 255e 40-YARD: 4.45e

UPSIDE: Genetic freak with explosive speed and great run strength after the catch. Can fly past linebackers, beat man coverage and stretch the seam. Poses big-time matchup problems because he can outrun safeties, jump through the roof and outmuscle linebackers. Gets his shoulders turned upfield fast and almost always falls forward. Does not go down easy and shows the balance to bounce off tacklers. Is used flexed wide, in-line and as a fullback and can contribute from anywhere on the field. Owns school records for a tight end in the 40-yard dash (4.41), bench press (460), power clean (355), vertical jump (40 inches) and squat (685). Can be downright dominant as a blocker and flattened Boston College's Mathias Kiwanuka at times.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks great bulk and is shorter than scouts would like. Could be more consistent as a blocker and get more push as a base blocker. Could do a better job fitting on linebackers on the second level and sticking to blocks.

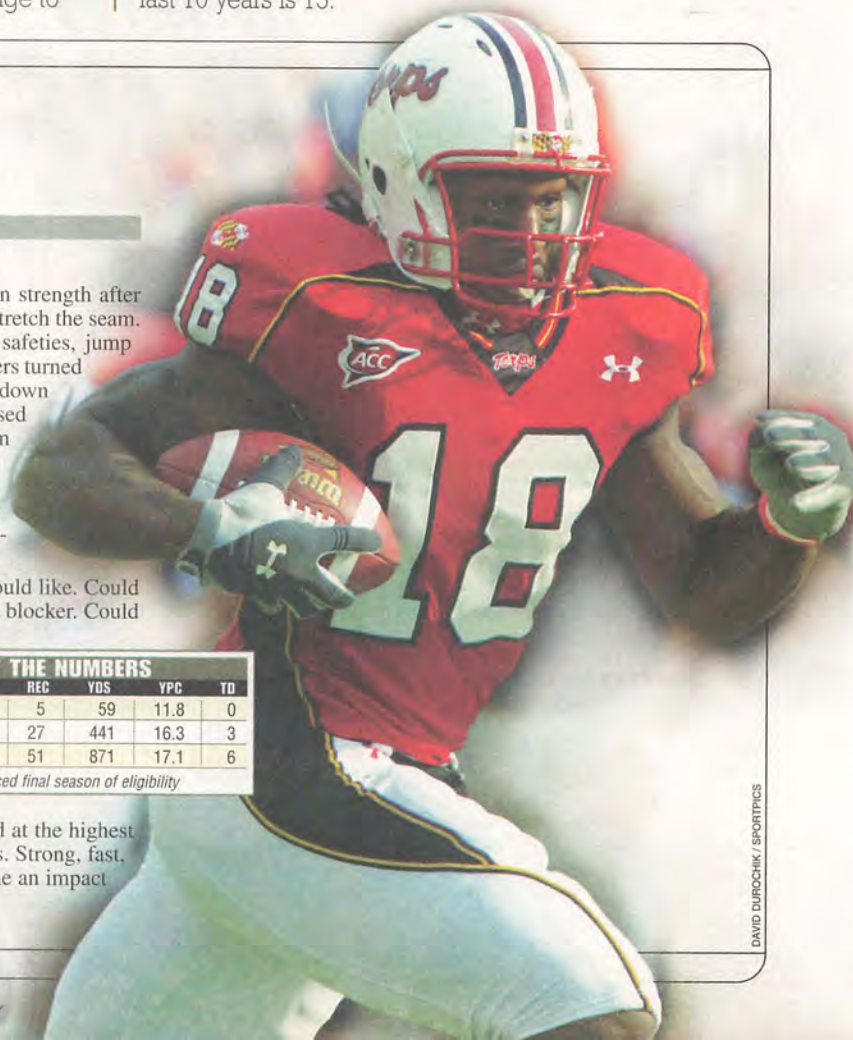
THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not as athletic as 2004 sixth overall pick Kellen Winslow but more consistently explosive at the point of attack. Nearly as impressive a physical specimen as Patriots 2004 first-rounder Ben Watson and more apt to convert weight room strength and power to the field. Has dominated at the highest level of collegiate competition and shows some special traits. Strong, fast, physical playmaker who could start immediately and become an impact player in a short time.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2003	13/0	5	59	11.8	0
2004	11/6	27	441	16.3	3
2005	11/11	51	871	17.1	6

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTICS

#2

Marcedes LEWIS

UCLA

HT: 6-5½ WT: 258 40-YARD: 4.74



UPSIDE: Smooth, fluid and compactly built. Has the movement skills of a receiver. Has a great wingspan and can pluck and snatch the ball and make acrobatic grabs. Great body control and agility to attack the ball. Has big hands and good concentration. Shows some athletic ability to maneuver and sidestep tacklers after the catch and can separate on crossing routes. Showed improvement as a blocker as a senior and gives good effort. Works his feet to sustain blocks. Solid character. Very competitive.

DOWNSIDE: High-cut and does not play with great leverage or knock anyone off the ball. Can do a better job sinking his hips and coming out of breaks. Not a great base blocker and can do a better job of finishing blocks. Lacks lower-body strength and drive-blocking ability. Not powerful enough to do everything he is asked as a blocker. Doesn't play very fast and has just adequate play speed for a pass-catching tight end.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Had a dozen Division I-A basketball scholarship offers coming out of high school and was more highly recruited for the hard court. Plays like a small forward between the white lines, showing the ability to box out and post up defenders. Made big strides as a senior, showing improvement as a blocker and nearly doubling his production, becoming the team's go-to receiver. With continued development, Lewis has the potential to develop into a Pro Bowl talent.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2002	13/0	6	51	8.5	1	
2003	13/8	30	377	12.6	3	
2004	12/10	32	402	12.6	7	
2005	12/12	58	741	12.8	10	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

#3

Joe KLOPFENSTEIN

COLORADO

HT: 6-5½ WT: 255e 40-YARD: 4.64



UPSIDE: Natural receiver with good hands. Runs well and can get down the field and threaten the seam. Adjusts to the ball, can track it over his shoulder and catch outside his frame. Good concentration. Very tough and will play through pain, taking pain-killing injections to play with an injured shoulder last fall. Takes good angles and can seal, wall-off and maintain position. Plays hard, really competes and gives great effort. Weight-room junkie. Very strong. Has a passion for the game. Outstanding work ethic. Great leaping ability. Runs hard after the catch. Very smart and coachable and learns quickly.

DOWNSIDE: Not a very crisp route-runner and doesn't stick his routes. Can do a better job getting off the line of scrimmage and beating the jam. Lacks great strength at the point of attack and is not an overpowering in-line blocker. Does not anchor very well in pass protection.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With few top receivers on the team, Klopfenstein received a lot of extra attention as a senior and his production dipped, but he still needed to be accounted for. He should only continue to get better and has the potential to be a solid starter. He is a cross between Ravens 2001 first-rounder Todd Heap and Raiders 2002 second-rounder Doug Jolley (now with the Jets). He may not be as great receiving, but he could turn out to be more well-rounded than either.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2002	7/0	0	0	0	0	
2003	11/10	20	190	9.5	4	
2004	13/12	33	418	12.7	5	
2005	13/12	33	468	14.2	4	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

#4

Leonard POPE [JR.]

GEORGIA

HT: 6-6½ WT: 255e 40-YARD: 4.75e



UPSIDE: A great big target with big hands, very long limbs and a huge wingspan. Does a nice job of using his frame to shield the ball from the defender. Catches the ball with ease for a big man and can extend and snatch it. Can stick to his man and is hard to shed when he wants to block.

DOWNSIDE: Some scouts say he is too tall and elongated for the position, struggling to sink his hips and quickly come out of breaks. Does not have great flexibility and labors to bend for the low ball. At a natural disadvantage with leverage as an in-line blocker and too easily lets defenders get underneath his pads and steer him. Uses too much finesse and is not an overpowering or strong blocker. Looks somewhat stiff and mechanical changing directions. Takes long strides and is not very quick over the first 10 yards. Takes time to get started and to build speed. Not a great athlete. Can play with better knee bend. Has an awkward stride like a gazelle. Likes to cradle-catch. Not very smart and still somewhat immature, being suspended for one game in 2005 for violating team rules.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Tall, rangy pass catcher who will likely get "overdrafted" because of his great measurables. Is not nearly as strong or explosive as Patriots 2004 first-rounder and former Bulldog Ben Watson and cannot stretch the field vertically like Dolphins 2002 fourth-rounder Randy McMichael. Where he can be most effective as such a huge target is in third-down situations.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2003	12/0	1	21	21.0	0	
2004	12/10	25	482	19.3	6	
2005	12/12	39	541	13.9	4	

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND



LEONARD POPE | GEORGIA

TE
#5 **Anthony FASANO** [JR.]
NOTRE DAME
HT: 6-3½ WT: 260e 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Has very good hands and can make difficult one-handed grabs. Looks like a natural catcher. Adjusts well to the off-line throw. Great concentration and hand-eye coordination. Will work across the middle. Settles into zones nicely. Can extend outside his frame. Very reliable in clutch situations, and many of his catches count for first downs. Runs hard after the catch. Scrappy blocker who gets into blocks and maintains position. Graduated in December. Book smart and football smart and is very assignment-sound. Reads coverages well and looks in sync with his quarterback. Benefited from playing in a pro-style offense.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks quickness and suddenness and has a difficult time getting separation. Not a great natural athlete. Does not show the speed to stretch the field vertically. Cannot run away from anyone for long. Could play with more leverage and knee bend. Lacks great strength as a base blocker. Not very physical and is not an overpowering blocker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could have benefited from another year in school. More athletic than Giants 1985 fourth-round pick Mark Bavaro when he was coming out of Notre Dame and is more effective in the passing game, but Fasano does not have Bavaro's toughness and offensive line mentality. Is not going to threaten the seam and force defensive coordinators to spend much time adjusting their game plan, but could develop into a solid starter.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2003	11/3	18	169	9.4	2	
2004	11/9	27	367	13.6	4	
2005	12/12	47	576	12.3	2	

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

TE
#6 **Dominique BYRD**
USC
HT: 6-2½ WT: 250 40-YARD: 4.85e



UPSIDE: Exceptional hands and natural receiving skills. Has soft hands and catches almost anything thrown in his vicinity. Tremendous ball skills. Tracks the ball easily over his shoulder. Gets in and out of breaks quickly and creates mismatch problems against linebackers. Has fluid movement skills and shows some run-after-the-catch ability. Caught the ball well at the Senior Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Does not play fast or sell his routes. Lacks great size, bulk and playing strength. Does not have a very good feel for how to block and does not take good angles or get good fits. Not a great worker. Can be lazy and needs to mature. Injury history is a minor concern with multiple knee, toe and jaw injuries. Playing time decreased as a senior, and he was phased out of the offense. Not much of a worker in the weight room or the classroom, and it reflects in his body and in taking concepts from the chalkboard to the field.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A classic underachiever with the knack for always saying or doing the wrong thing. Lack of physical and mental maturity could delay his development and prevent him from ever materializing into the dynamo pass-catching threat he has shown he could be. Would be great fit in a Shannon Sharpe-type, H-back role in an offense like that of the Broncos. Needs to take the game more seriously, play with a greater sense of urgency and realize that blocking is a big part of the job.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2002	2/0	1	10	10.0	0	
2003	6/6	14	268	19.1	1	
2004	9/0	37	384	10.4	3	
2005	12/9	29	306	10.6	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

TE
#7 **David THOMAS**
TEXAS
HT: 6-2½ WT: 238 40-YARD: 4.75e



UPSIDE: Great production. Very good hands and focus. Catches the ball very easily away from his frame and led the Longhorns in receptions. Will battle and scrap and won't go down without a fight after the catch. Has good body control. Moves fluidly and is able to get in and out of breaks seamlessly. Shows savvy as a route-runner. Uses his hands well to release cleanly and knows how to get open. Has great field awareness. Can make difficult catches look easy. Fine athlete. Solid angle blocker. Works his feet and gives great effort in the blocking game. Is tough enough to maintain position. Good football intelligence. Graduated in 3½ years. Very determined self-starter. Will play through pain. Football is very important to him.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have the speed to separate vs. man coverage. Needs to be on the move to be effective as a blocker and has below-average in-line blocking strength. Cannot drive his man off the line of scrimmage. Lacks bulk strength. Gets ragdolled by base defensive ends.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Thomas is a very dependable underneath target who emerged as Vince Young's go-to guy. Could be an ideal fit in a West Coast offense as an H-back in the mold of former Titans TE Frank Wycheck. Great intangibles could easily pull him off draft boards on Day One, but lack of size could push him to Day Two.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2002	13/0	9	105	11.7	2	
2003	13/13	14	219	15.6	3	
2004	12/12	25	430	17.2	5	
2005	13/13	50	613	12.3	5	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

TE
#8 **T.J. WILLIAMS**
NORTH CAROLINA STATE
HT: 6-2½ WT: 253 40-YARD: 4.83



UPSIDE: Three-year starter with good hands and solid production. Lines up outside at times and can really run and threaten the field vertically. Good competitive speed. Tough and will work between the hashes and lower his shoulder after the catch. Makes some outstanding grabs and will lay out to snag it. Shows good concentration tracking the ball over his shoulder. Plays hard and competes. Can fit on linebackers and seal. Gives good effort in the blocking game.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great size. Not a strong in-line blocker. Not very physical and does not lock on and maintain blocks. Lacks the bulk strength to handle power rushers. Gets knocked off his route too easily at the line of scrimmage and can do a better job of using his hands to release freely. Takes long strides and is not very quick to get out of his breaks. Gathers to cut. Not very creative running after the catch. Could use some reps to learn. Has had some durability issues, including surgery on both thumbs and on his right labrum. Also missed some action with a strained right Achilles tendon.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Williams is fast enough to overcome his lack of girth with good speed. He is best-suited for an H-back or move tight-end type of role and can do some damage as a pass-catcher.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD	
2002	11/1	3	50	16.7	0	
2003	13/9	28	444	15.9	3	
2004	11/10	31	382	12.3	0	
2005	12/12	36	407	11.3	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE TE

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in TE prospects

The most dangerous tight ends through the years who line the Hall of Fame walls have been able to **threaten the seam** and **run after the catch**. Their **hands** have been very reliable. To be special, they must also be as good **blocking** as catching, but most tight ends today are pretty one-dimensional.

THREATENING THE SEAM

Being able to release cleanly off the line of scrimmage and challenge the middle of the field adds a huge dimension to an offense and opens up the short passing game. Ozzie Newsome and Shannon Sharpe were two of the best at stretching defenses vertically. Raw speed down the seam can create a lot of mismatch problems and force defenses to play differently, but to truly make a difference, tight ends must be able to track the ball over the shoulder and adjust to it without being intimidated by the big hit to which they become vulnerable.

RUN-AFTER-THE-CATCH

Tight ends who can create their own yardage after the catch are rare. Mike Ditka was able to run over tackler after tackler. Kellen Winslow Sr. was athletic enough to leap over and run around defenders. Today, Antonio Gates is the best. Tight ends who can act like running backs in the open field and show the quickness, vision and determination to turn a short reception into a long gain are difficult to find.

TIGHT END

PROTOTYPE: Kellen Winslow
With the speed and athletic ability to stretch the seam, Winslow was a big-time, downfield weapon.

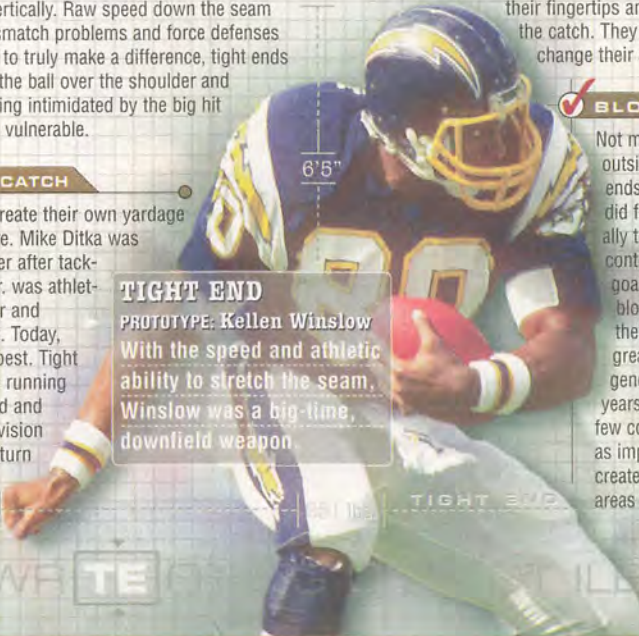
HANDS

Tight ends often become a safety outlet for quarterbacks looking to check down off their primary receiver and are used heavily on play-action in the red zone. Like former 49ers great Brent Jones, whose hands were very reliable, great pass-catchers can snatch the ball with their fingertips and will secure the ball quickly after the catch. They do not let aggressive linebackers change their approach towards the ball.

BLOCKING

Not many tight ends can hook and seal outside linebackers or drive defensive ends off the ball the way Mark Bruener did for so long for the Steelers. Generally teams carry a big blocking type to contribute in short-yardage and goalline situations. Strong base blockers understand angles, move their feet to sustain and play with great knee-bend and leverage. But generally, in the NFL today and in years past, there are and have been few complete tight ends who can block as impressively as they can catch and create. A tight end highly skilled in both areas is special.

—N.N.



COURTESY OF THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

TE 9 Owen DANIELS
WISCONSIN
HT: 6-3½ WT: 244 40-YARD: 4.7e

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	7/0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/0	15	193	12.9	2
2004	12/2	25	391	15.6	2
2005	12/8	22	268	12.2	4

UPSIDE: Naturally athletic converted quarterback with good hands. Runs nice routes and catches well on the move. Has enough quickness to separate on crossing routes. Shows effort to block in-line and is improving in that area. Can get out on the second level, adjust to a moving target and seal linebackers.

DOWNSIDE: Has been slowed by injuries throughout his career, and durability could be an issue, with two anterior cruciate ligament surgeries on his left knee dating back to high school and an ankle injury that limited him for much of his senior season. Lacks bulk and needs to get stronger.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Motion or move tight end who is best blocking when he is flexed out in the slot or from the wing and has some momentum and a good angle in his favor. Looks like a pumped-up wide receiver and catches like one. Most value will come as a pass-catcher.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

TE 10 Tim DAY
OREGON
HT: 6-3½ WT: 260 40-YARD: 4.8e

BY THE NUMBERS					
YEAR	GP/GS	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
2002	13/0	3	18	6.0	1
2003	13/11	23	318	13.8	3
2004	11/9	35	457	13.1	8
2005	12/9	25	215	8.6	1

UPSIDE: Has good size and looks the part with long arms and big hands. Can pluck the ball out of the air and shows nice body control to adjust to it. Fluid mover.

DOWNSIDE: Not very mentally tough. Has taken himself out of games. Does not like to block and lacks the bulk strength to be effective in-line. Has a narrow build and not enough lower-body mass to handle base blocking. Does little more than get in the way as a blocker. Has had surgery on both calves to relieve chronic tightness and missed time because of ankle and shoulder injuries. Could fail some team physicals. Struggles with tough coaching.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: In Gary Crowton's new spread-option offense, Day was rarely used to block and operated mostly out of the slot in four-receiver sets. He has not shown the toughness to be more than an H-back.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

- GARRETT MILLS** | Tulsa
Most productive TE in nation projects to H-back.
- TONY SCHEFFLER** | Western Michigan
Could blossom with baseball in rearview mirror.
- JEFF KING** | Virginia Tech
Can post up linebackers like a small forward.
- DANIEL FELS** | Cal-Davis
Opened some eyes at East-West Shrine game.
- CHARLES DAVIS** | Purdue
Looks like Tarzan, plays like Jane.
- JASON POCIASK** | Wisconsin
Solid blocker, but needs to get bigger, stronger.
- QUINN SYPNEWSKI** | Colorado
Injury history could keep from being drafted.
- COOPER WALLACE** | Auburn
Three-year starter with no great traits.
- TROY BIENEMANN** | Washington State
Long-snapping ability is a big plus.
- TIM MASSAQUOI** | Michigan
Undersized move tight end worth developing.

OT PROSPECTS

This year's offensive tackle class is the strongest the NFL has seen since 1997, when two tackles were selected in the first six picks, and 11 offensive tackles were drafted on Day One. The depth and quality is not as great, but this year's class features four tackles who could fit into the first round, led by Virginia's

D'Brickashaw Ferguson.

Scouts have not seen a tackle of Ferguson's caliber come out since '97. He has started from Day One in one of the top conferences in the country, despite entering the program at only 245 pounds, and has gotten better every year. His athletic ability is superb, his arms are as long as they come, and his technique is very refined for a collegiate player.

USC junior Winston Justice is nowhere near the technician that Ferguson is and is very, very raw, but there may never have been a big man who could run and jump the way he can. He's a physical freak with rare athletic ability and could gain as much momentum as any player in this draft after he finishes popping out the eyes of scouts working him

out. He's not as mature a person or a player as Ferguson, and there is much more of a bust factor involved, but Justice's upside is far superior.

The two others with first-round potential both come packaged as damaged goods. Miami (Fla.)'s Eric Winston and Auburn's Marcus McNeill both have injury concerns that could push them down draft boards and even knock them off some, with Winston yet to fully recover from a knee he blew out as a junior and McNeill nursing a back condition that has forced other talented players in years past to spiral down draft boards. Prior to Winston's injury, he graded out like a first-rounder, and McNeill still does despite his back condition. Both are more suited for the right side.

Texas' Jonathan Scott and Miami (Fla.)'s Rashad Butler are both great athletes with raw technique and have left tackle qualities. Boston College's Jeremy Trueblood, LSU's Andrew Whitworth, California's Ryan O'Callaghan and Northwestern's

Zach Strief all possess the massize size and toughness more ideal on the right side and could all potentially fit into Day One.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

A

OT

1

D'Brickashaw
FERGUSON

VIRGINIA

HT: 6-5½ WT: 297 40-YARD: 5.1e

UPSIDE: Big, powerful and very athletic. Excellent foot quickness. Outstanding technician. Has incredibly long arms to keep defenders off his body and under control. Has wide shoulders and sets with a wide base. Plays physical and will knock defenders around. Very smart. Has participated in martial arts and it shows in his great balance and quick, active hands. Can shuffle, slide and mirror. Shows good body control and can fit on linebackers and adjust on the second level. Solid character. Rarely gets beaten to the edge. Has been extremely durable, starting every game of his college career except for two as a senior because of a sprained knee. Very little body fat. Looked dominant at the Senior Bowl, showing refined technique and keeping blockers at bay with 36½-inch arms.

DOWNSIDE: High-cut. Has a thin lower body and could use more sand in his pants to anchor. Needs to continue spending time in the weight room. Not nasty. Can improve inside punch to counter inside moves. Not a dominating run blocker. Got muscled around by Virginia Tech DE Darryl Tapp, who recorded two sacks vs. Virginia, and could be challenged by quick, explosive speed rushers.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: The best pass protector to come out of college in nearly a decade, Ferguson has the frame, footwork and sound technique to start for a long time in the NFL. If he performs as well in the pros as he has in college, he will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 20 years. Not since 1997, when Orlando Pace was drafted first overall and Walter Jones was selected sixth overall, has a franchise left tackle with Ferguson's capabilities come along.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	14/14
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	10/10

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



OT

#2

Winston
JUSTICE [JR.]

USC

HT: 6-5e WT: 300e 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Rare athleticism for his size. Outstanding movement skills. Fluid and agile. Natural knee-bender. Can get out on second level and attack linebackers. Giant wingspan. Workout warrior who will test out better than many tight ends at more than 300 pounds, with great leaping ability and speed. Only 20 years old and has tremendous, tremendous upside.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have a great feel for the game and is not very instinctive. Does not take great angles and falls off blocks. Can get stronger at the point of attack. Hands and feet and mind don't always appear to work in conjunction with one another. Arms will flail when he runs. Very immature. Was suspended for pulling a replica gun on a student and was sentenced to three years probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor count of solicitation of prostitution. Has some con in him. Has been dinged at times throughout his career, missing two games in 2003 with an ankle sprain and having surgery on a dislocated right shoulder after his freshman season.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Entrusted to protect Matt Leinart's blind side with protection rolled to the right and is a natural left tackle. Reminds scouts some of 49ers 2003 26th overall pick Kwame Harris but is even more athletic and has greater upside. Could have used another year in school to mature and to refine his technique, but like he did when he entered college as a 17-year-old freshman and became the first freshman lineman to start at USC since 1996, he is able to recover so well that he could get away with starting right away in the pros. A potential top-15 pick.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/12
2003	11/11
2004	DNP
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



WINSTON JUSTICE | USC

OT

#3

Eric
WINSTON

MIAMI (FL)

HT: 6-6e WT: 310e 40-YARD: 5.2e



UPSIDE: Early in his career, prior to blowing out his knee in the fourth game of his junior year, Winston looked extremely athletic, could move his feet, shuffle, slide and stick to his man like glue. A converted tight end with great athletic ability, he was very light on his feet and pulled and maneuvered very easily. Solid run blocker who can drive defenders off the ball. Very smart and plays like another coach on the field. Has a passion for the game.

DOWNSIDE: Returned from injury as a senior and looked more stiff, too straight-legged and almost robotic, especially early in the year. Played hesitantly on his bad knee and looked very protective of it. Feet looked heavier and he did not finish blocks. Struggles in transition from his set to his power step. Has short arms and lets defenders into his body. Struggles to sink his hips and anchor and plays too tall. Gets pushed by power. Really struggled to keep Florida State DE Kamerion Wimbley from turning the corner in the season opener and gave up too many QB hits early in year. Has some fake toughness to him, and rubbed some teams the wrong way during interviews, coming off as arrogant.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Began the season out of shape and took some time before he looked comfortable playing on his injured knee. Does not look as strong, athletic or nasty as Bears OLT John Tait, drafted 14th overall in 1999 by the Chiefs. Some scouts think his short arms will force him to play inside in the pros, but he started to look more comfortable late in the year and showed he is capable of playing tackle, although he may be most naturally suited for the right side. Could slip as far as the third round, but would be an excellent value there.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/0
2003	13/12
2004	4/4
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

OT

#4

Marcus
McNEILL

AUBURN

HT: 6-7½ WT: 332 40-YARD: 4.97



UPSIDE: Mountain of a man with very long arms and a wide frame. Looks the part. Rare measurables. Can lock on tight, steer and wall off. When he gets his hands on defenders and engulfs them, they are done. Shows good mobility to get downfield. Rarely lets his man get by him and has not allowed any sacks. Good balance. Not on the ground a lot. Smart, coachable and mature. Outstanding worker.

DOWNSIDE: Has a bad back with a stenosis condition that has forced him to alter his workout program, and he bends like a 60-year-old man. Too stiff. Plays upright and puts his body in bad positions. Limited pop and punch. Not nasty, powerful or explosive and just leans on his man. Slow-footed and slow-handed. Struggles to kick out, counter inside moves and reach-block. Average change of direction. Let an average defensive end from Western Kentucky make a lot of plays, and plays down to level of competition. Too tall and does not play with great leverage. Had some problems controlling his weight early in his career.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Lacks the toughness teams desire in right tackles and is more passive than they like on the left side, but his best pro position is on the right side. Played better late in the year and grades out like a first-round talent, but will likely not even be on the draft boards of some teams after getting evaluated medically and will likely slip at least a round or two. Some teams question whether his back will ever be all right, and he will need a lot of technique work if he can stay healthy. Rare measurables will still intrigue.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/4
2003	10/9
2004	13/13
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#5

Jonathan
SCOTT
TEXAS

HT: 6-6½ WT: 307 40-YARD: 5.2e



UPSIDE: Very durable three-and-a-half-year starter. Looks the part with long arms, an 82-inch wingspan and a big body. Outstanding natural athlete with nimble feet. Shows great quickness. Can move his feet and slide laterally. Bends from the knees. Great size. Very lean for a 300-pounder. Can flip his hips and redirect in space. Smart. Solid character. Has NFL bloodlines (father, Ray, played tight end for the Jets). Brings some value as a backup longsnapper.

DOWNSIDE: Very raw. Marginal technique. Crosses his feet and plays too narrow-based. Uses too much finesse and is not strong at the point of attack. Doesn't sustain or hold blocks very long and does little more than get in the way. Lacks power and pop in his punch. Doesn't move anyone off the ball. Lacks passion for the game and does not take enough pride in his work. Not fluid and is too herky-jerky in his movement. Lacks upper-body strength. Tentative on the second level and is not physical. Still needs to learn how to finish blocks. Did not always play with a sense of urgency. Tends to get sloppy with his technique. Does not know how to pass-block. Really struggled at the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: It's disappointing to watch a player with such natural athletic ability and quick feet not finish blocks or dominate the way he is capable of dominating. Shows you everything you want to see at times but is too inconsistent and not technically sound. The light needs to come on for Scott to realize his potential, and after not coming on through four years as a starter, scouts are wondering if it ever will. Will be drafted higher than he grades out because of his upside and natural athleticism.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/7
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#6

Rashad
BUTLER
NORTH ALABAMA (Fla.)

HT: 6-5e WT: 290e 40-YARD: 5.1e



UPSIDE: Has long vines for arms that allow him to steer defenders and recover easily. Plays with a wide base, sinks his hips and plays with good leverage. Excellent feet suitable for the left side. Good versatility and has played right and left tackle, filling in for the injured Eric Winston as a junior. Has nice balance and quickness to wall-off and seal defenders. Nimble in space and can hit a moving target. Has a frame to grow into and a lot of potential. Impressed scouts with his foot quickness at the East-West Shrine game.

DOWNSIDE: Has a thin lower body from the knees down and lacks a power base. Has thin ankles and missed three games as a junior with an ankle injury. Not very stout, and power base ends can ride him too far backward. Needs to improve his strength at the point of attack. Must add bulk and learn to sink his hips to handle the bull rush. Barely benches his own weight and needs to devote himself to the weight room. Can improve his awareness to zone blitzes and stunts and do a better job of finishing blocks. Weighing in at only 282 pounds at the East-West Shrine game raised eyebrows.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With Winston still recovering from a knee injury and losing some quickness, scouts questioned why Butler was not playing on the left side this year and Winston on the right. Butler does not show the power or nastiness teams seek in right tackles. His frame, foot quickness and athleticism make him better-suited for the left side in the pros. Reminds scouts of Dolphins 2003 third-round pick Wade Smith, and could develop into a solid tackle with more seasoning and strength.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	8/0
2003	10/4
2004	9/8
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

#7

Jeremy
TRUEBLOOD
BOSTON COLLEGE

HT: 6-8 WT: 319 40-YARD: 5.33



UPSIDE: Massive mauler with a thick, solid build, and it takes a \$50 cab ride to get around him. Has long arms and big hands to punch, steer, control and lock out defenders. Can engulf pass rushers once he gets his hands on them and locks up. Shows nice balance and is able to absorb contact and stay on his feet. Takes good angles as a run blocker and to cut off speed rushers.

DOWNSIDE: Not a great athlete and does not possess the strength you would expect a man of his size to have. Bends from the waist and is not a natural knee bender. Limited leg drive. Height is a hindrance and forces him to play too tall and lose leverage battles. Struggles to redirect. Average feet and strength. Does not have a great power base to drive defenders off the ball. Not a great finisher. Scouts would like to see more nastiness in his play. Needs to get his hands on defenders or will struggle with speed. Feet look like they are stuck in concrete at times, and he is slow to set in pass protection. Struggled with speed at the Senior Bowl and was exposed in one-on-one drills when trying to match up with smaller defenders.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not as tough and nasty as your typical well-coached Boston College offensive lineman but is assignment-sound and will bring his lunch pail to work every day. Does not possess the foot speed to handle premier pass rushers on the left side in the pros and is best-suited to play right tackle. Is built like a basketball center and looks similar to Bears 2002 first-round pick Marc Colombo, but is not the athlete Colombo was and will not be drafted nearly as high. Will not fit with predominantly zone-blocking teams.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/0
2003	13/13
2004	12/11
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

#8

Andrew
WHITWORTH
LSU

HT: 6-6½ WT: 328 40-YARD: 5.3e



UPSIDE: Very experienced, durable four-year starter at left tackle in an elite, top-tier program. Smart, instinctive and very competitive. Has big hands and long arms and can maul defenders once he gets his hands on them. Takes good angles and can push defenders off the ball. Is agile enough to pull. Assignment-sound and regularly grades out above 90 percent. Takes a lot of pride in his work. Great weight-room worker. Is a 500-pound bench presser. Exhibits strong leadership qualities. Quick learner who responds well to coaching. Married and accountable and can be trusted to take care of business. Has started 52 consecutive games during his career.

DOWNSIDE: Limited athlete. On the ground too much. Struggles to adjust in space and fit on linebackers. Average change of direction. Not a great bender and shows limited body control in space. Too top-heavy and falls off blocks. Too stiff in the lower body. Not very powerful or strong. Struggles handling speed and hitting a moving target on the second level. Does not roll his hips and generate much core power or explosiveness. Needs to become a more consistent finisher.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A smart, overachieving, tough banger who gets the job done but does not look very pretty doing it. Better than 2004 Cowboys third-round pick Stephen Peterman, who was overdrafted and has struggled to produce in the pros. Whitworth's durability, intelligence and work ethic will likely position him in the same round, but he is strictly a right tackle. Has the look of a WWE heavyweight wrestler.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/13
2003	14/14
2004	12/12
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

THE

PFW

PROTOTYPE

OT

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in OT prospects

Left tackles have tended to be more athletic to handle speed, and right tackles more powerful with teams tending to run most often to the right side. However, the positions have become more interchangeable, and to be successful, all tackles must be able to play with **balance**, be **alert** of where pressure is coming from, **recover** when they lose position and take great **pride** in their work.

BALANCE

Being able to shuffle, slide and mirror a defender without falling on the ground or getting overextended, especially when pulling, trapping and adjusting to a moving target in space. Tackles need to be able to anchor and hold their ground, especially right tackles matching up with big, strong base ends. Offensive tackles who can keep their shoulders square, knees bent, chin up and get depth in their pass-pro set can dictate what defensive linemen do. Anthony Muñoz and Tony Boselli had great balance and technique.

AWARENESS

Offensive tackles must be alert to blitzes from all angles and be able to instinctively see and react to twists and stunts. They must feel pressure trying to slip underneath and be able to help with an inside punch. On the second level, they need to be able to zero in on a moving target and continue working downfield with a second surge.

RECOVERY SPEED

Every tackle will lose position at times. The great ones are able to regain their body control, redirect, pivot, punch and quickly shift their weight to cut off their opponent and finish the block. With the responsibility of protecting the quarterback's blind side, left tackles must have quick feet to handle the defense's fastest pass rusher, who generally lines up on the right side, and the agility to react to quick counter moves and spins. Jonathan Ogden is one of the all-time great finishers.

PRIDE

Tackles rarely get noticed by the average fan unless they are beaten and give up a sack. If a tackle plays a great game, he will have gone unnoticed. That is what a tackle wants and why NFL teams seek blue-collar grinders who bring their lunch pail to work every day seeking no fanfare. A tackle needs to have supreme confidence in his ability and take a lot of pride in doing the dirty work that few will truly appreciate. Having an aggressive temperament to dominate and punish defenders is important.

—N.N.

OFFENSIVE TACKLE

PROTOTYPE: Jonathan Ogden
Because of his tremendous balance, intelligence and recovery speed, Ogden developed into a perennial Pro Bowler.



QB RB WR TE OT G DE DT LB CB S

PFW PHOTO ARCHIVES

OT
#9 **Zach STRIEF**
NORTHWESTERN
HT: 6-7 WT: 340 40-YARD: 5.4e



UPSIDE: Big, strong three-year starter in the bruising Big Ten Conference. Takes a lot of pride in his work and battles hard. Plays with passion. Can get a push and create some wide holes. Can muscle and maul defenders. Can handle a bull rush. Has a powerful punch. Shows enough athletic ability to pull and get outside on screens and recover when he is stretched. Plays with a mean streak and flashes some nastiness. Good hand use. Is able to lock down his man and rarely gives up any plays. Not on the ground much. Showed everything NFL teams look for vs. Arizona State and bounced Penn State DE Tamba Hali around. Very smart and learns quickly. Great worker. Film junkie. Tough and will play through injuries.

DOWNSIDE: Has a bad, pear-shaped body. Does not show the foot quickness or athletic ability to play on the left side. Looks awkward trying to adjust in space and does not fit on linebackers easily. Has had trouble controlling his weight and is not a great worker. Struggles handling speed and could do a better job of taking away angles in pass protection.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Played with a badly sprained right ankle most of his junior year and looked more functional on a healthy set of wheels as a senior. Does not look pretty but gets the job done. A cross between Eagles OT Jon Runyan and Chiefs OT John Welnor, who were both drafted early in the fourth round and have become very dependable starters. Does not have the quickness and power to play guard and is strictly a right tackle. Ability to recover is not great, but he shows the intelligence, pride and good enough balance to contribute readily.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/3
2003	12/12
2004	13/13
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

OT
#10 **Ryan O'CALLAGHAN**
CALIFORNIA
HT: 6-6 WT: 363 40-YARD: 5.35e



UPSIDE: Mammoth mauler who is very good in a phone booth when he can get his hands on defenders. Eliminates defenders from the play when he latches on. Can hit with force and gets good hand placement. Can sit and anchor. Alert to stunts and blitzes. Can open holes as a drive blocker. Will play hurt.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks passion for the game. Does not prepare as hard as he could. Not very tough. Has a very flat chest with no muscular development. Too top-heavy and overweight. Has no base or balance once he enters space. Really labors to hit a moving target and usually misses. Once he gets stretched, all his mechanics break down and he cannot function. Not sudden or explosive. Really struggles to change direction. Will get beaten by NFL speed rushers. Durability needs to be considered carefully, with three surgeries on his left shoulder, a broken hand and multiple concussions. Really labored to stay in front of his man in one-on-one drills at the Senior Bowl and was exposed vs. speed and power with blockers getting underneath his pads, driving him back and easily getting an edge.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Bigger but is not nearly as athletic as Redskins 2004 fifth-round pick and former Cal OT Mark Wilson and is just as soft. Can win in short areas with his size, but needs to play on the right side. With the quality of talent so poor on the West Coast, O'Callaghan is the best right tackle in that part of the country, and his value is overestimated in the eyes of some evaluators because of it, but when stacked up against the rest of the country, he is no more than a second-day talent at best.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/0
2003	11/11
2004	12/12
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

#11

Guy
WHIMPER

EAST CAROLINA

HT: 6-6e WT: 305e 40-YARD: 5.2e

UPSIDE: Converted tight end with great athletic ability to move his feet, shuffle and slide. Looks the part. Has a frame to grow into and should only get bigger and stronger. Has the feet of a left tackle. Gets off the ball quickly and can wall off and seal. Has a lot of potential and really impressed scouts with his movement skills and natural athleticism at the Hula Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: One-year starter with limited experience. Needs some reps to learn. Very raw technician. Crosses his feet and does not keep his shoulders squared. Needs to learn to use his hands better. Not a finished product.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Raw, developmental prospect with the physical tools to be molded. A lot of his flaws are correctable and he could develop into an NFL starter in a couple of years with a patient offensive line coach. Similar to Panthers 2000 third-round pick Leander Jordan, who was cut after two years and bounced around the league but recently developed into a starter for the Chargers in '05.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/0
2003	12/8
2004	11/6
2005	11/10

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND



GUY WHIMPER | EAST CAROLINA

#12

Quinn
OJINNAKA

SYRACUSE

HT: 6-4½ WT: 293 40-YARD: 5.33

UPSIDE: Good musculature with long arms and a frame to grow. Fine athlete with great feet. Gets into blocks quickly. Sudden mover with good leg drive. Gains depth in his pass drops. Uses his hands well to control and steer defenders. Nice balance. Shows the agility to mirror. Maneuvers well in space. Plays with leverage. Competes hard. Shows a mean streak. Works hard. Tough and durable. Solid character.

DOWNSIDE: Needs to bulk up and put on 25 pounds. Has no lead in his pencil and can't anchor. Plays too tall. Can be more physical. Hands will go wide and outside the target and could improve hand placement. Could do a better job recognizing blitzes.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With a good strength program, Ojinnaka could develop into a solid backup, but he is at least two years away from being able to compete in the NFL. Would be ideal in a zone-blocking scheme like the Falcons' and could fit best inside at guard, although some scouts were impressed enough with his athleticism at the Las Vegas Classic to keep him outside.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	9/1
2003	12/0
2004	12/12
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

#13

Derek
MORRIS [JR.]

NORTH CAROLINA ST.

HT: 6-6e WT: 330e 40-YARD: 5.2e

UPSIDE: Massive mauler with very thick legs and 22-inch calves. Has a very strong upper body and can engulf defenders once he gets his hands on them. Is learning how to use his size and has improved his balance, body control and footwork from the time he entered the program as a 360-pounder. Has long arms and is used on block units, where he has been effective batting down kicks.

DOWNSIDE: Has let his weight balloon and needs to keep his weight under control. Has had multiple ankle injuries. Tires too easily and when he does, he will stand up out of his stance, and play too tall and flat-footed. Gets beat by quickness and speed off the edge and struggles when pass rushers make him have to move his feet, slide and adjust. Not very tough.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Huge, heavy-footed right tackle who could play on the next level if he will pay the price and turn his baby fat into muscle and improve his endurance. Has some short-area quickness and is more athletic than you would think. Future may be at guard.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2003	6/5
2004	8/7
2005	11/10
Renounced final season of eligibility	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

#14

Brad
BUTLER

VIRGINIA

HT: 6-7½ WT: 303 40-YARD: 5.3e

UPSIDE: Shows fluid movement skills and nice balance. Stays on his feet. Sets quickly in pass protection and works his hands and feet to hold the edge. Reacts quickly to stunts and twists. Showed more toughness and aggressiveness as a senior. Self-made talent. Plays hard.

DOWNSIDE: Too tall and struggles to change direction and handle pass-rush moves. Too deliberate in his movement. Not a great athlete. Struggles vs. power and speed. Struggled with the quickness of Vols DE Parys Haralson and can be overpowered by base ends. Very thin legs. Lacks bulk and bulk strength. Has a long torso and struggles to drop his hips. Not explosive. Too hot and cold. Loses some battles and his confidence can sour easily.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not explosive and does not have the power to play inside. Some think he is strictly an OLT. Others think he is good enough to play OLT. He entered UVA weighing 245 pounds and has put on more than 50 pounds in four years. With physical development, Butler could at least be a solid backup and may turn out to be much more.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/1
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

#15

Joe
TOLEDO

WASHINGTON

HT: 6-5½ WT: 321 40-YARD: 4.9e

UPSIDE: Very naturally athletic converted tight end. Looks the part. Can bend, slide and punch. Plays with a good base and natural knee bend. Has very quick feet and shows good quickness and mobility. Smart. Learns quickly. Has tremendous potential.

DOWNSIDE: Body does not appear to be made for the trenches. Has never been able to stay healthy, missing considerable time with a bulging disk in his back as a sophomore and missing most of his senior year with an ankle injury. Needs to add bulk and get stronger. Very raw and needs to refine his footwork and become much more of a technician. Did not finish the season strong.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Better athlete than 2005 second-round pick Khalif Barnes, but durability issues will push him farther down draft boards. Ideal backup with the versatility to play guard or either tackle position. Similar to Bills 2003 fifth-round pick Ben Sobieski and will need some time to develop. Could turn out to be a steal on the second day if he enters a situation with a good NFL training regimen.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/5
2003	3/0
2004	10/9
2005	6/6

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

D'BRICKASHAW FERGUSON

A MAN OF MANY INTERESTS, THIS O-LINE PROSPECT TACKLES MORE THAN JUST FOOTBALL

By Bobby La Gesse

Virginia OLT D'Brickashaw Ferguson has said taking on new challenges helps the mind.

It explains why he plays the saxophone, held a brief interest in law, took karate lessons and is so interested in religion that he majored in it.

For Ferguson, football is just another challenge.

He has played as an undersized offensive tackle, entering college at 245 pounds and leaving as a senior still on the small side at 297 pounds, but had to find a way to dominate defenders on the collegiate level without being able to use brute force. Consider his mission accomplished, as Ferguson's technique-reliant blocking style is so good, he will be one of the first players selected in the 2006 NFL Draft.

"He is very energetic, very inquisitive and his parents are the same," Virginia head coach Al Groh said. "He is a product of his upbringing."

Still, some scouts knock Ferguson for not being a football lifer. They say he does not devote himself entirely to the game. In actuality, that's by design.

Ferguson's parents, Edwin and Rhunette, wanted their son to experience all that life has to offer. Hence the hobbies. But it is not as if Ferguson does not pour himself into football when he is at practice or working out in the offseason. It's just when practice ends, he moves on.

"He is a guy who loves the locker room," Groh said. "He jokes around with guys, but when he leaves, he is gone. He is off to his other interests and endeavors."

The scouts should be thankful Ferguson's parents pushed him into any activity he showed the slightest interest in. That upbringing brought Ferguson to karate, an activity he credits with helping him to develop his near-perfect technique — which scouts drool over.

Ferguson began taking karate in elementary school, years before he put on his first set of pads. By high school he had earned a black belt. Footwork and hand placement are vital to

ities, participants must focus on details, he said. So Ferguson threw himself into the Virginia playbook, and he quickly picked up every nuance of what the Cavaliers were doing.

Ferguson used his knowledge of the Cavaliers' blocking schemes to put himself in the right spot at the right time. It is hard to beat Ferguson when he is where he should be and can lock on to defenders with his long arms. Even if he does get beat, scouts say he uses his athletic ability to recover.

"When you are out there, (things move) so quick," Ferguson said. "They will show you a front and shift out of it, and in a matter of seconds you have to decide what you are doing. You just have to react. A lot of times that is due to the things you have done in practice and the coaching strategies that have been implemented."

Those in the NFL would like to see Ferguson improve his run blocking, saying he tends to catch defenders instead of striking them, and that he could have more of a mean streak. That may be nit-picking on the part of pro scouts, but if Ferguson's past is any indication, he may have found his next challenge.

FAST FACT: TWO OFFENSIVE TACKLES WERE DRAFTED IN THE FIRST ROUND LAST YEAR

karate success. Those same traits are found in pass blocking, the area in which Ferguson excels. Scouts rave over Ferguson's footwork, body control, long arms and athleticism. His technique allows him to maintain leverage on defenders in nearly any situation.

"D'Brickashaw has really good balance and body control," Groh said. "Certainly some of that is natural, but likely his involvement in the martial arts at the early age that he started it would be part of it."

Durability should not be an issue for Ferguson despite his smaller size, even if he sat out two games in the middle of his senior season with a sprained knee. The injury forced Ferguson to miss a marquee matchup with Boston College DE Mathias Kiwanuka, also a projected first-round pick. Prior to the injury, Ferguson started 42 consecutive games, dating back to his first game as a freshman, the second longest streak in Virginia history.

Ferguson, a two-time first-team All-ACC selection, believes karate does more than help the physical part of football. To succeed in both activ-



ICON SMI PHOTOS

OT
#16 **Troy REDDICK**
AUBURN
HT: 6-4½ | WT: 317 | 40-YARD: 5.69

UPSIDE: Big mauler with long arms and strong, powerful hands. Intense competitor. Shows some nastiness and will try to bury defenders in the ground. Tough and physical. Good bulk strength to anchor and hold his ground. Stays on his feet. Three-year starter in the Southeastern Conference.

DOWNSIDE: Comes from a very tough upbringing, with no parents and some issues with trust. Could screw up a locker room. Knock-kneed. Not a very good athlete and can struggle to handle speed. Doesn't stick his feet in the ground in pass-pro sets. Not a great worker. Could need a lot of attention and give an OL coach headaches.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Scouts have very mixed feelings on Reddick, and he won't be on some draft boards because he does not respond well to tough coaching. Tough mauler whose best chance to excel will come in a zone-blocking scheme. Best pro position could be inside, but he has the size, toughness and strength to play right tackle.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	8/3
2003	13/12
2004	13/13
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

OT
#17 **Ryan COOK**
NEW MEXICO
HT: 6-6½ | WT: 322 | 40-YARD: 5.37

UPSIDE: Very durable, three-and-a-half-year starter who was largely unrecruited out of high school and quickly earned a scholarship after walking on. Has a giant frame and long arms and is able to keep defenders at bay. Quick and agile. Tough. Plays hard.

DOWNSIDE: Has a flabby body with a soft belly. Plays too tall and straight-legged and lets defenders get underneath his pads. Does not play with the leverage needed to anchor vs. massive space-eaters. Not a great athlete and will struggle on the second level. Not a finished product. Needs a lot of technique work and must learn to use his hands better. Likes to grab and hold instead of striking and punching. Struggled when matched up with elite pass rushers at the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was used at center out of necessity early in his career, even though he was more naturally suited for tackle, and never moved back outside. Developmental prospect who will need a few years of grooming before he is ready to contribute.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/8
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

OT
#18 **Michael TOUDOUZE**
TEXAS CHRISTIAN
HT: 6-5½ | WT: 307 | 40-YARD: 5.3

UPSIDE: Showed good enough movement skills to handle NFL-caliber speed rushers vs. Oklahoma and the tenacity to battle base ends. Takes nice angles. Versatile and can play on either the right or left side. Very good hand use. Can be nasty, and posted 54 knockdown blocks as a senior.

DOWNSIDE: Has a bad body with skinny legs. Marginal upper-body strength is noticeable. May need some reps to learn. Only a one-year starter in a mid-level program. Doesn't have the lower-body strength to knock anyone off the ball. Can do a better job of sinking his hips and anchoring. Very raw and is far from a finished product. Needs to spend more time in the weight room. Lack of lower-body weight really turned off some scouts at the East-West Shrine game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With a few years in an NFL-regimented eating program, Toudouze is capable of developing into a solid pro. He will get paid to pass-protect and is a better football player than Dolphins 2005 fifth-round pick and former Horned Frog Anthony Alabi.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	9/0
2003	13/1
2004	10/0
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH ROUND

OT
#19 **Paul McQUISTAN**
WEBER STATE
HT: 6-5½ | WT: 304 | 40-YARD: 5.4e

UPSIDE: Experienced, four-year starter at left tackle. Great size with room to grow. Shows some power and can knock defenders off the ball. Battles hard and competes. Aggressive. Looks like a man among boys at Division I-AA level. Two-time captain. Great work ethic. Smart and has a good feel for stunts and blitzes.

DOWNSIDE: Has not faced much in the way of competition. Tightly wound and is not very agile moving in space. Not a great athlete. Can be late off the ball. Technique still has a lot of room for improvement. Not a finished product. Needs to learn how to use his hands better and put it all together. Average feet.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Entered program as a 230-pound linebacker and has worked hard in the weight room. Showed more consistency as a senior but still has a ways to go before his technique catches up to his strength and desire. Lacks the agility to play on the left side in the pros but could develop into a backup right tackle and guard. Reminds scouts a little bit of Jets 1998 fourth-round pick Jason Fabini.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/8
2003	12/12
2004	11/11
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

OT
#20 **Jimmy MARTIN**
VIRGINIA TECH
HT: 6-4½ | WT: 302 | 40-YARD: 5.24

UPSIDE: Three-and-a-half-year starter in a top-tier program. Big-boned and still has room to grow. Shows some athletic ability. Can move his feet, shuffle and adjust to inside and outside moves. Gets out to the second level and can fit on linebackers. Keeps his feet underneath him and uses his hands well to maintain position, wall off and seal. Sticks to his man. Sees the blitz and shows good recognition. Has been very durable and not missed any time.

DOWNSIDE: Too thin and lacks bulk strength. Is not going to power off the ball and generate any movement. Limited punch strength. Uses too much finesse. Not strong or nasty. Plays too narrow-based. Gets driven back and struggles to anchor. Will struggle with NFL speed rushers. Has a bad body and looks like a non-athlete.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Virginia Tech has not had a great track record of producing NFL offensive linemen. Martin may never be an ideal starter, but he has enough quickness and savvy to stick in the league. He is similar to Chiefs backup OT Chris Bober.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	10/7
2003	13/13
2004	13/13
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

21. **DONALD PENN** | Utah State
Hula Bowl performance elevated draft status.
22. **STEFON WHEELER** | Michigan State
Huge OLT improved after dropping weight.
23. **TERRANCE PENNINGTON** | New Mexico
Stock climbed with solid Shrine game play.
24. **CHARLIE JOHNSON** | Oklahoma State
Raw converted tight end with upside.
25. **ALBERT TOEAINA** | Tennessee
Massive mauler who will need to be molded.
26. **DENNIS ROLAND** | Georgia
Great effort but too tall and lanky to adjust.
27. **E.J. WHITLEY** | Texas Tech
Versatile pass blocker needs to get stronger.
28. **ALBERT STINSON** | Jackson State
Raw project with inviting measurables.
29. **ROB MEADOW** | Washington
Shows enough athletic ability to get looks.
30. **RANDY HAND** | Florida
Too stiff but could be a versatile backup.



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OG PROSPECTS

Only three guards have been drafted in the first round in the past five years, with Seattle's Steve Hutchinson being the highest drafted at No. 17 in 2001. An average of four have been drafted on the first day in that same period.

This year, with interior talent scarce in free agency and many guards in the draft with experience at tackle, there could be more guards drafted than usual.

The top guard in the country, Oklahoma's Davin Joseph, played out of position at left tackle on a depleted offensive line this fall and struggled early in the year. By season's end, he looked much more comfortable and good enough to contribute in a pinch there in the pros. However, he does his best work inside, where he is very good with his hands and can impose his will on defenders.

Georgia's Max Jean-Gilles, USC's Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui, and Ohio State's Rob Sims, in contrast to Joseph, were too heavy to survive on an island and were moved inside

after playing tackle earlier in their careers.

Conditioning has been an issue for all of them, and they need to keep their weight under control to be effective. With more defenses employing "30" fronts anchored by massive space-eaters, more teams are looking for big-bodied blockers who can hold their ground, which should benefit Jean-Gilles, Lutui and Sims.

Boise State's Daryn Colledge and Pittsburgh's Charles Spencer, like Joseph, lined up at left tackle last fall and might fool some evaluators into believing they could start there after they get done working out. They are both workout warriors, but neither plays to his athletic ability, and Spencer is very raw, having converted from the defensive line two years ago.

Two small-school tackles — Cornell's Kevin Boothe and Bloomsburg's Jahri Evans — both will hear their names called on Draft Day and excel as run blockers. However, both have a lot to learn in pass protection and have not shown they can dominate vs. top competition, which will make it difficult for teams to draft them too early.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

B

OG

1

Davin
JOSEPH

OKLAHOMA

HT: 6-2½ WT: 304 40-YARD: 5.1s

UPSIDE: High school heavyweight championship wrestler who is excellent with his hands and knows how to control and steer in tight quarters. Has a defensive disposition. Great natural strength. Plays with a wide base and pretty good knee bend. Can power off the ball and generate movement with his strong hips and lower-body strength. Quick and athletic enough to be an emergency left tackle. Can pull and adjust on the second level. Can dominate as a drive blocker, beat defenders by himself and create wide running lanes. Can slide his feet, recover and switch off blocks when he sees the blitz. Has long arms and pop in his punch to stun defenders and keep separation. Good finisher. Plays to the whistle. Looked more comfortable at left tackle as the season progressed. Great character. Diligent worker. Team leader. Very coachable.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have the foot quickness to survive on an island and is not a natural left tackle. Can be a little top-heavy and will bend from the waist at times. Not a great athlete and does not have great body control on pulls and traps.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Few guards typically fit into the first round, with the position being relatively lower paid and one of lesser importance. Joseph brings added versatility, like Steve Hutchinson and Dolphins 2004 19th overall pick Vernon Carey, that will improve his draft stock. He is a very reliable, square-cut zone blocker with Pro Bowl potential.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/2
2003	13/12
2004	13/13
2005	12/12



2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

OG

#2

Max
JEAN-GILLES

GEORGIA

HT: 6-4 WT: 358 40-YARD: 5.51



UPSIDE: Very big-boned, massive mauler who looks dominant at times. Has long, 35-inch arms, strong hands and an extremely strong upper body to control defenders. Abused Tennessee DT Jesse Mahelona and flashed the ability to do everything most teams want a guard to be able to do vs. the Vols — knock defenders off the ball, fit on linebackers, short-pull, slide and seal. Can bend his knees and is not on the ground a lot. Can get to the second level and work his hips around. Very strong at the point of attack. Versatile and has played guard and tackle. Plays with a wide base and can short-set and anchor. Showed up as the heaviest player at the Senior Bowl but still carried his weight pretty well and impressed scouts with his strength and girth.

DOWNSIDE: Not very quick or explosive off the ball and does not show much agility around the perimeter. Has some problems handling speed. Feet will go dead on contact at times. Too top-heavy and will fall on himself on the second level. Too lazy. Takes plays off. Not a great competitor. Plays down to level of competition. Struggled to control his weight early in his career and let it balloon. Wears down quickly in the heat and has some problems with cramping and dehydration. Could use some reps to learn.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has looked much more natural inside since moving in from tight tackle as a junior. The farther he has to go, the more he struggles. A big road-grader who wears down defenders once he locks on, Jean-Gilles still will have to fight the under-achiever label after not consistently dominating the way he should have as a senior. Compares favorably to Redskins 2003 third-round pick Derrick Dockery, who has developed into a solid pro.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	14/1
2003	14/14
2004	12/12
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTICS

MAX JEAN-GILLES | GEORGIA

OG

#3

Taitusi "Deuce"
LUTUI

USC

HT: 6-3½ WT: 338 40-YARD: 5.5e



UPSIDE: Has outstanding size with great bulk and can swallow defenders when he gets his hands on them. Has massive calves. Can anchor and hold his ground. Stops undersized D-tackles dead in their tracks and does not allow much push vs. massive space-eaters. Has enough strength to slap around defenders and create some movement at the line of scrimmage. Can slide and shuffle and maintain balance in short areas. Started at right tackle last year, protecting Matt Leinart's blind side, and has some experience on an island to contribute in a pinch. Married. Showed up at the Senior Bowl in very good shape and was better able to handle movement and still was able to stop big bodies from getting a push.

DOWNSIDE: Really struggles pulling, trapping and isolating one-on-one. Limited body control on the move. Has had problems controlling his weight and has been as heavy as 396 pounds. Needs some reps to learn. Only a one-year starter at OG. Heavy-footed and inconsistent with his footwork. Has a bad body with short legs, big feet and a soft belly. Does not take very good angles and is on the ground too much. Not as powerful or explosive as you would expect a man his size to be. A little stiff and can play too tall.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Can be very effective as a toe-to-toe, short-zone combo blocker in a power scheme. There are not many 340-pound guards in the NFL, and his weight could be his undoing, but Lutui could be functional for a team like the Dolphins or Steelers that likes big mashers and will be attractive in the AFC East and AFC North, where most teams employ immovable nose tackles. Not a great fit for a lot of teams and could slip in the draft due to team needs.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	JUCO
2003	JUCO
2004	13/13
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

OG

#4

Daryn
COLLEDGE

BOISE STATE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 295 40-YARD: 5.33



UPSIDE: Very strong, durable four-year starter who has started every game of his career, starting 51 consecutive games. Will impress teams with the way he works out, because he holds school records in the power clean (409 pounds), hang clean (429) and vertical jump (35½ inches) for an offensive lineman. Moves well in-line and fights with his hands. Shows a strong punch and can ride most college defenders out of the pocket. Plays to the whistle and flashes some nastiness. Married. Graduated in December. Showed he was capable of playing tackle at the Senior Bowl and could do a decent job of it.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks the length and height to play tackle. Has short arms and lets defenders into the fleshy part of his body. Lacks functional strength, which becomes more noticeable vs. higher levels of competition. Really struggled vs. Georgia. Looked very average vs. Bowling Green. Plays too upright and is not an easy mover. Not quick with his hands. Does not anchor very well. Falls off blocks. Limited hip explosion. Looks maxed out in the lower body with little room to add bulk. Too flamboyant for the position, seeks attention and wants the camera on him — an undesirable personality trait for an offensive lineman. False tough.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Lacks the foot quickness desired in left tackles and is underpowered at right tackle. Nowhere near as athletic as Titans 2005 second-round pick Michael Roos and is more similar to Dolphins 2003 third-round pick Wade Smith. Best fit will come at left guard in the NFL, and he eventually could become a serviceable starter.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/13
2003	14/14
2004	12/12
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

OG

5 Rob SIMS

OHIO STATE

HT: 6-2½ WT: 305e 40-YARD: 5.25e



OHIO STATE DEPT. OF ATHLETICS

UPSIDE: Three-year starter on a smash-mouth offensive line in an elite program. Naturally strong, 500-pound bench presser who matches up very favorably with big-bodied two-gappers. Kept Michigan DT Gabe Watson in check without giving up much ground. Recognizes the blitz and is able to slide, stay on his feet and handle counter moves. Pretty good balance. Has lined up at left and right tackle and can fill in as an emergency tackle. Good feet.

DOWNSIDE: Not very mobile or agile and has to grab and hold defenders to block them off the edge, getting flagged for holding vs. Tamba Hali when he kicked out to right tackle vs. Penn State. Tightly wound, especially up top. Not a great technician and has a lazy trait. Looks overweight and out of shape and tires too easily. Most effective playing close to 300 pounds but is not a great worker and not a well-conditioned athlete. Not a great competitor. Lacks mental toughness. Gets lazy with his hands and is too inconsistent and soft with his punch. Should be more physical. Tends to rise out of his stance and play too tall for a short guy. Does not hold his blocks very long and is not a great finisher. Does not show great body control on the move.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Looked like a fish out of water at left tackle as a junior and has not shown he can handle speed off the edge on either side. Improved his stock immensely after shedding 20 pounds and moving inside as a senior. Much more effective with help on each side. Has the physical ability to be a solid starter, but he needs to take conditioning seriously and toughen up to reach his potential. Could turn out to be a better pro than college player.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/5
2003	13/12
2004	12/11
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

OG

6 Kevin BOOTHE

CORNELL

HT: 6-4½ WT: 312 40-YARD: 5.4



UPSIDE: Outstanding size with long, 34-inch arms and big, strong hands. Plays with good pad level. Uses his hands well. Good lateral agility and movement skills and looks fluid moving in space. Has a strong power step. Nasty. Will come off the ball and strike with his hat and hands. Can steer and control. Good finisher. Shows the foot quickness, agility and power to drive defenders off the ball and will try to drive them into the ground. Runs his legs on contact and shows good leg drive. Tough and has played with casts on both hands.

DOWNSIDE: Not overly athletic. Sets short in pass protection and will give up the edge. Feet are not good enough to play on the left side in the pros. Has thin calves and ankles with a pear-shaped body. Will bend from the waist and can lose his balance at times. In pass protection, he can get pushed back and give up too much ground, and he could do a better job of sitting to anchor. Needs to get stronger and can do a better job locking out and reloading his punch. Has not faced top competition, and when he did square off against better pass rushers at the East-West Shrine game, he struggled and looked out of place. Will probably need a few years to adjust to handling the speed of the pro game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Arrived on campus tipping the scales at 370 pounds and worked hard to get his weight under control, dropping 60 pounds during his first year in the program. Still has room to improve as a pass protector but is a dominant drive blocker who can improve a team's running game. Lined up at left tackle in college but is best-suited to play inside in the pros and could swing to right tackle if needed.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	10/10
2003	9/9
2004	10/10
2005	10/10

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

OG

7 Charles SPENCER

PITTSBURGH

HT: 6-4½e WT: 325e 40-YARD: 4.9e



UPSIDE: Massive mauler with pretty good feet and natural strength. Can work his hips around and create some movement in the run game. Can get out in space and adjust on the run. Shows ability to get downfield. Shows good enough strength at the point to maintain position. Sets his feet quickly in pass protection and moves well laterally. Smart and responds well to coaching. Has a lot of potential. Lined up at guard most of the week at the Senior Bowl and looked more natural inside. Flashes power in his punch. Can be physical and shows some nastiness.

DOWNSIDE: Very raw and still learning how to block. Not a great technician, and his hands and feet do not seem to work in conjunction. Hands tend to go high and wide of the target. Could show more awareness recognizing the blitz. Can be late off the ball and slow to get into blocks. Too much of a leaner. Lacks functional strength. Limited lower-body explosion. Tends to play too upright and can get beaten by quick inside moves. Not a great finisher. Has become more of a worker but can still improve in that area. Had reconstructive surgery on his left shoulder and has not been able to practice the past two springs.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: High school tight end and hoopster who began his college career at defensive tackle and finished at left tackle. Will work out very well but does not play to athletic ability and will need some time to develop. Has only two years of experience on the offensive line and has a lot to learn. Not refined enough to come in and start for a team right away, but he has too much upside to stray too far outside the first day.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/2
2003	12/0
2004	12/12
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

OG

8 Jahiri EVANS

BLOOMSBURG (Pa.)

HT: 6-4½e WT: 330e 40-YARD: 5.15e



UPSIDE: Has outstanding size. Very dominant as a run blocker at Division II level. Strong, physical and aggressive. Can drive his man off the ball and win battles at the point of attack. Uses his hands well to steer and control. Good leg drive and can get downfield and run his feet. Shows some nastiness. Graded out over 90 percent for the season as a junior and over 95 percent in every game as a senior.

DOWNSIDE: Has not faced top-notch competition and is still rough around the edges. Is very inexperienced as a pass protector and needs a lot of work there. Gets away with poor technique. Does not have great feet and is not very athletic. Labors to change direction. Does not show a lot of awareness to pressure. Can spend more time in the weight room and get stronger, especially up top. Could use some extra reps to learn. Durability is a concern with screws inserted in both legs (left tibia in June 2001, broken right fibula in '03). May not clear all physicals.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: College right tackle who needs to begin his career inside and learn to pass-protect. Needs a patient OL coach to mold him. Not a true phone-booth blocker but limited in short area. Needs to address recovery, anchor strength and ability to handle speed in pass protection before a team can trust him to protect the quarterback. Needed to have a good showing vs. better competition at the Las Vegas All-American Classic and did not. Disappointed scouts with average strength, athleticism and balance. Was on the ground too much, and his lack of technique could keep him off the field for several years.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	10/0
2003	10/8
2004	10/10
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

THE

PFW

PROTOTYPE

OG

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in OG prospects

With defensive tackles continuing to grow in size, it has created a need for guards to be increasingly **tough, strong** and **nasty**. The most effective guards know how to **use their hands** to their advantage and are very **quick** into blocks, wasting no time on the second level.

TOUGHNESS

Guard is one position where work ethic really matters and players can get away with overcoming athletic limitations because of the help on each side of them. Working in close quarters, guards need to be physical and play with a defensive disposition. The more nasty, the better. Steve Hutchinson is very tough. Bruce Matthews, the ironman of offensive linemen, was incredibly tough.

FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH

Interior linemen must be able to absorb contact and not give ground in pass protection. In the running game, the best are able to swing their hips, get positioning and generate movement. In his prime, Larry Allen was nearly immovable when engaged and could snap his hips and knock defenders off the ball. Possessing the base strength to handle massive space-eaters is becoming more critical in the NFL.

HAND USE

Guards must be able to escape mammoth defensive tackles trying to hold them up at the line and free up linebackers, making the ability to punch, recoil and shock defenders important in the trenches. Defenders work a variety of pass-rush moves to slide by and penetrate. Guards must have very active hands to counter-punch and handle the handiwork of defenders trying to take the edge.

QUICKNESS

Being agile enough to get through the hole, pull and trap was more important before 350-pound nose tackles starting popping up around the league. Although there is now a greater premium on girth inside, guards still need to be able to change direction, angle block and short-set in pass protection. Agile guards capable of fitting on linebackers can really open up the running game and establish the ground game, like Alan Faneca does for Pittsburgh.

—N.N.

OFFENSIVE GUARD

PROTOTYPE: Larry Allen
One of the most physical and powerful guards to play the game, Allen became a fixture in the Pro Bowl.



PHOTO BY JAMES D. SMITH

OG

#9 **Isaac SOWELLS**
INDIANA

HT: 6-3 1/4 WT: 324 40-YARD: 5.19



UPSIDE: Three-year starter at left tackle. Good feet and movement skills. Has big hands and very long, 35 1/2-inch arms to keep separation. Naturally strong. Plays with a good wide base and kickslides quickly outside to cut off the rush. Best quality is his pass protection, with ability to set quickly and slide with nice lateral quickness. Played through a wrist injury that affected his punch strength. Solid character.

DOWNSIDE: Plays too soft. Not very nasty and has no fire in his belly. Not a great athlete. Not very fluid or quick to handle movement at him. Struggles to sustain. Mental toughness has been questioned. Looks like he is playing afraid at times. Lacks pop in his punch and is not a powerful player. Needs to learn to translate his weight-room strength to the field. Was a partial qualifier out of high school, and there are some questions about how sharp he is mentally. Lacks some focus. Jumped offside several times at the Las Vegas Bowl practices. Missed seven games with a broken right arm as a junior and nursed a left wrist injury as a senior until the Ohio State game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Showed improvement throughout the course of his senior season and played much more consistently late in the year. Some scouts think he has enough athletic ability, foot quickness and arm length to at least be tried at left tackle. At a minimum, he could have some value as an emergency swing tackle. He opened some eyes at the Las Vegas All-American Classic and improved his draft stock, but Sowells will likely be moved inside and spend his career at guard in the NFL.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	12/0
2003	12/12
2004	4/4
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

OG

#10 **Will ALLEN**
TEXAS

HT: 6-4 1/4 WT: 309 40-YARD: 5.25e



UPSIDE: Big, tough, naturally strong and can knock defenders off the ball. Comes from a football family and is very smart, hard-working and diligent. Good awareness. Sees and can adjust to blitzes and pick up stunts quickly. Likes to be aggressive and will go for the throat and try to finish his blocks. Will fight and battle through injuries. Played center early in his career and brings added versatility. Has 32 career starts at right guard. Has solid character and will represent a team well in the community.

DOWNSIDE: Tightly wound and is not very quick-twitched or explosive. Needs to improve his punch and do a better job of striking and reloading. Lunges too much and is on the ground more than he should be. Does not always keep his feet moving and tries to use his upper body too much to muscle defenders. Tends to play too tall, bend at the waist and lose leverage. Not a great athlete and does not look fluid or agile in space. Does not adjust well on the second level and can struggle with counter moves. Has had multiple knee injuries.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A scrappy battler with the aggressiveness and football temperament teams desire in power right guards. Can play 10 years in the league and has the versatility to contribute anywhere inside. A smart achiever who will bust his butt and do everything he can to be successful. However, playing on one of the most talented O-lines in the country helped conceal some of his flaws. His lack of athletic ability, quickness and balance was very apparent at the Senior Bowl, and he regularly got beat in one-on-one matchups and was on the ground way too much. Durability could affect his draft status.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	8/0
2003	12/11
2004	8/8
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

TAITUSI 'DEUCE' LUTUI

AN EXCLUSIVE Q&A WITH ONE OF THE 2006 NFL DRAFT'S TOP-RANKED GUARDS

By Mike Holbrook

USC OG Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui came to the Trojans as a heralded tackle and started all of the 2004 season at right tackle. Things really took off for him as a senior when the coaching staff asked him to switch to left guard. The 6-3, 338-pounder emerged as one of the top guards in the nation, helping pave the way for Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush. He also played a key role in protecting QB Matt Leinart, who won the Heisman in '04.

We caught up with Lutui in his Mobile, Ala., hotel room the day before the 2006 Senior Bowl.

PFW: I know you showed up (for the Senior Bowl) in great shape. Has weight management been an issue for you?

Lutui: I mean, I've always been a big boy. ... Coming from high school, I didn't really know what work was, and playing for USC we learned to finish a lot of drills, a lot of our plays and stuff like that. And I contributed that on to our season. Just a valuable lesson in learning how to finish is something I've applied in practices and games, and my weight just came down naturally.

PFW: So, have you been doing anything special since the season ended? Have you been working out differently?

Lutui: I've been working out for the Combine. The time when my weight was coming down, I wasn't on a special diet or anything, I was just a student at USC, and diets cost money. (Laughs). And so, just working hard in weights and conditioning on the field — it all contributed to my success this season.

PFW: How big have you been at your biggest?

Lutui: My biggest, I came in at 396. I was a hoagie away from 400. (Laughs) Yeah,

comfortable weight for me to play in the NFL.

PFW: It seems like you'd be a good fit for an AFC East or North team where you could match up with some of the bigger nose tackles in the league. Do you see yourself as a good fit in a particular system or team?

Lutui: I love playing football, and anywhere that needs my help and accepts me as I am, I would love to get in that scheme. I'm adaptable to learn new things, too, as a run blocker or a pass blocker or for the team, you know. I'd like to be versatile and be balanced rather than be one-dimensional.

PFW: You played tackle before this season. How was that adjustment for you?

Lutui: It was an adjustment. You know, I played tackle my whole college career until my senior year (from left tackle to right tackle to left guard), so learning the new schemes and having to act like a guard was something that I had to pick up. When I was playing guard, I used to have a tackle stance where my kick step was way behind me, so there's some things I had to change and tweak to learn the fundamentals of a guard.

PFW: How long did it take to learn to play guard?

Lutui: It was a quick transition, going from tackle to guard, it was a quick thing. I had to come in and play right away or else I would go to another spot. I picked it up real fast.

PFW: With Pat Ruel (USC OL coach) having NFL experience, did it help make you more prepared for the NFL?

Lutui: Oh yeah. I came in with Coach Davis (Tim Davis, who works for the Dolphins). He really broke me in and got my feet wet as a tackle. Then, Pat Ruel taught

the way for their success?

Lutui: Yeah, those two, as offensive linemen, and I speak for the offensive line at USC, we really did live through their success. For Leinart to get the Heisman was a huge compliment for us. And for Reggie to get the Heisman was even better. For an offensive lineman to receive that kind of compliment, to the glory that we really get our piece of pie from them. It's just something we enjoy to see, to see our running backs and quarterbacks be very successful. That just points to us, the guys in front of them.

PFW: Do you feel like a part of those awards are yours?

Lutui: Yeah, I told Matt and Reggie that they owe the left foot off their Heisman Trophies to me. (Laughs). I was just joking around.

PFW: Have you held the Heisman Trophy?

Lutui: We've seen them, but I haven't gotten the chance to hold one, but it's an honor to have that kind of award at USC.

FAST FACT: USC HAS PRODUCED MORE FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS THAN ANY OTHER SCHOOL

some people were like, "Why don't you gain the extra four pounds to get to 400?" I was like, "Ah, I better not."

PFW: And what are you down to now?

Lutui: I'm down to 338.

PFW: Do you have a goal in mind to get down further? Or is this a good weight for you?

Lutui: Yeah, I have a goal. For the Combine, I would love to be 330 and just shed eight more pounds. I think that would be a

me a lot about playing guard. Those two have been big factors in my playing at USC and getting my name out and stuff like that. He's really helped me.

PFW: I'm guessing that the success of Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and LenDale White shined the spotlight on you and your linemates. Did it kind of go both ways, with you guys paving

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

OG

#11

Adam
STENAVICH

MICHIGAN

HT: 6-3½ WT: 315 40-YARD: 5.3e

UPSIDE: Three-year starter at left tackle in physical Big Ten Conference. Great competitor. Really battles in tight quarters. Takes good angles and plays smart. Usually sees the blitz and can slow it down. Brings versatility to contribute at tackle in a pinch. Tough competitor. Works hard and takes the game seriously.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great feet to slide, adjust to movement and recover vs. the blitz. Is slow to reach the second level and is not asked to pull a lot. Lumbers when he runs. Struggles with the outside speed rush. Lacks playing strength and is not very explosive. Can get popped and driven back deep in the backfield. Gets overextended and falls off blocks. Uses too much finesse for an interior lineman.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A heavy-legged foot-pounder who has too many problems working the edge to stay outside. Projects inside but does not show the power that teams like at right guard and fits best on the left side. Can develop into an adequate starter and, at the worst, provide depth.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	7/3
2003	13/13
2004	12/11
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND

OG

#12

Tony
TELLA

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-5e WT: 295e 40-YARD: 5.2e

UPSIDE: Fairly athletic and moves well for his size and can chip to the second level. Can recover to twists and stunts. Has a big frame with room for growth. Shows some pop in his punch and uses his hands well inside. Is quick into blocks and can get position and wall off defenders. Smart. Works hard. Has intriguing potential. Self-starter. Likes a challenge. Good character.

DOWNSIDE: Has flat calves and flawed footwork. Has a tendency to play too narrow-based and lose leverage. Limited leg drive. Does not run his feet on contact to sustain. Not going to drive defenders off the ball. Lacks lower-body strength and does not generate much movement. Needs to do a better job finishing blocks. Plays too soft.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Developmental prospect with the athletic ability and work habits to at least stick on a roster as a backup. With continued physical maturity and improved technique, Tella may be able to crack a starting lineup. Many of his flaws are correctable. A couple of years in an NFL strength program will do him good.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	6/0
2003	6/0
2004	12/12
2005	12/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

OG

#13

Dan
STEVENSON

NOTRE DAME

HT: 6-4½ WT: 298 40-YARD: 5.4e

UPSIDE: Very smart, tough three-year starter in an elite program. Assignment-sound. Plays with a good, wide base and can maintain position and sustain blocks in close quarters. Versatile and has played guard and tackle. Comes from a football family and has NFL bloodlines. Has a good attitude and great work habits.

DOWNSIDE: Not very athletic and lumbers on the second level. Is not very quick-footed or agile and struggles to adjust to a moving target and fit on linebackers. Not great at pulling. Not very explosive and is on the ground too much. Doesn't knock anyone off the ball. Could be more physical and improve power in his punch. Can play with more consistent pad level.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A steady, dependable college player with the versatility teams like to have in backups. Stevenson has enough strength and smarts to be drafted late. Average from an athletic standpoint and will probably never be more than a backup, but blue-collar work ethic can help him stick.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	11/1
2003	10/10
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

OG

#14

Fred
MATUA [JR.]

USC

HT: 6-2e WT: 305e 40-YARD: 5.25e

UPSIDE: Strong, physical and shows some nastiness. Has NFL bloodlines with relations to Tuiaosopo family. Very tough. Will play through injuries. Nice short set and anchor. Very confident and takes a lot of pride in his work. Shows nice agility to pull, trap and get out in space.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal height. Is undersized and his durability could be an issue, with knee, back and ankle injuries limiting him. Had hernia surgery after redshirt freshman season and suffered a broken leg in high school. Has a soft, round body. Limited lower-body explosion. Not a great athlete and struggles changing direction. Likes to talk too much.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could have used another year to mature but left school early because of financial considerations. Will be misvalued and overdrafted after playing on the most talented offensive line in college football, where he was able to operate cleanly and free of clutter. However, he plays with a mean streak, and on the right team, he could eventually develop into a starter.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	0/0
2003	13/8
2004	13/13
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

OG

#15

Mark
SETTERSTROM

MINNESOTA

HT: 6-3½ WT: 307 40-YARD: 5.44

UPSIDE: Shows the quickness to block on the move and enough agility to maneuver on the second level and redirect. Smart and competitive. Takes good angles. Will battle to the whistle. Works hard to improve. Extremely durable with 50 consecutive starts and will play through injuries.

DOWNSIDE: Is undersized with a frame that does not look like it can carry much more weight. Limited power and explosiveness and will get overpowered by massive NFL defensive tackles. Struggles to anchor vs. the bull rush. Limited upper-body strength. More of a grabber than a puncher. Shows some tightness in his lower body and is on the ground more than he should be.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A fairly athletic, blue-collar zone blocker who won't fit for many teams and needs to play in a system like the Broncos' or Falcons', where he can overcome his lack of strength. Could be drafted higher to fit the right scheme but would be a backup at best for most teams. Some teams think his best pro position may be center.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/13
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

**BEST
OF
THE REST**

16. **CHRIS KUPER** | North Dakota
Dominant D-II guard who can long-snap.

17. **JEROMEY CLARY** | Kansas State
Finesse college tackle needs to move inside.

18. **BRAD HONEYCUTT** | Georgia Tech
Knee surgery could keep from being drafted.

19. **JASON MURPHY** | Virginia Tech
Converted defensive tackle with upside.

20. **LEQUALAN McDONALD** | Baylor
Massive widebody with limited mobility.

21. **TRE' STALLINGS** | Mississippi
Smart, versatile four-year starter at OLT.

22. **ROB SMITH** | Tennessee
Left school with OL coach. Should have stayed.

23. **JASON PALERMO** | Wisconsin
Solid technician who can move some in space.

24. **CODY DOUGLAS** | Tennessee
Big, heavy-footed, barrel-chested zone blocker.

25. **ALDO DE LA GARZA** | Texas A&M
Too stiff and struggled as a senior.

C PROSPECTS

An average of nine centers were drafted during the last five years, with only six being taken in 2002. This year, just nine centers were invited to the Combine, and the talent pool is not much better than it was five years ago.

If teams need a center, they better draft one early, and early Ohio State's Nick Mangold may go. An outstanding technician, Mangold is a three-year starter in the Big Ten Conference with very good measurables and outstanding intelligence.

He has received some first-round grades from scouts, but he does not stack up as a first-rounder with the solid talent in this draft. However, he has a good chance to fit there because of the scarcity of talent available at the position.

The most athletic center in the draft, and one of the most athletic linemen in general, is Oklahoma's Chris Chester. Never more than a backup tight end until his

senior year, Chester really impressed scouts with his foot quickness and movement skills at his new position. He is still raw with limited experience, but his upside could bring him off draft boards early.

Scouts have a love-or-hate relationship with Louisville's Jason Spitz, who lined up at guard for the Cardinals but is being projected to center in the pros. He flashes the ability to dominate but has been too inconsistent.

Florida's Mike Degory and Minnesota's Greg Eslinger were both solid four-year starters in college, but they are both overrated and will struggle to earn starting jobs for most teams.

Virginia Tech's Will Montgomery and Boston College's Pat Ross are smart overachievers who rely on playing sound, fundamental football and taking good angles.

Wisconsin's Donovan Raiola and California's Marvin Philip are both undersized and will fit best with zone-blocking teams that cover up their physical and athletic shortcomings.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

D

1

Nick
MANGOLD

OHIO STATE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 296 40-YARD: 4.96

UPSIDE: Great technician. Is quick into blocks. Plays with great leverage and pad level. Natural knee-bender. Light on his feet. Can sink his hips and anchor. Works to maintain position. Good hand use. Very good balance. Nice agility on the second level and can come off combo blocks and fit on linebackers. Always on his feet. Assignment perfect. Very, very smart. Makes all the line calls. Very durable. Great work ethic. Vocal leader. Very consistent and competitive. Looked dominant in one-on-one drills at the Senior Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Slightly barrel-chested and has a soft belly. Does not look the part. Not overly thick and a little bit top-heavy. Not very explosive and doesn't play with a lot of pop and snap. Can improve his strength. Needs some help vs. massive space-eaters. Makes some poor blocks that led to big hits on his quarterback. Does not always sense the blitz coming. Might be too cerebral and too nice. Tends to play down to level of competition and never dominates the way you want to see him do.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Outstanding measurables and sound technique could be enough to bring Mangold off the board in the first round, given the scarcity of talent at the position in this draft. His base strength is not exceptional, but he has the quickness and intelligence desired at the position and should be able to earn a starting spot very soon. A throwback, old-school technician who will consistently win battles and do everything he is asked. A low-risk pick.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	8/0
2003	13/11
2004	12/10
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

#2

Chris CHESTER
OKLAHOMA

HT: 6-3½ WT: 295e 40-YARD: 4.85e



ICON SIM

UPSIDE: Very good athlete for the position. Can flip his hips, pull and fit up on linebackers on the second level. Great movement skills. Good body control and balance. Breaks down well in space. Has a frame to add bulk. Shows some explosive power and will roll his hips on contact. Moves well laterally and can slide and mirror in pass protection. Good leg drive. Very good pulling and trapping. Versatile and can play center or guard. Very coachable and will do whatever he is asked to help the team. Married with a child. Solid character. Works hard to improve.

DOWNSIDE: Has only eight career starts. Very raw and needs to improve his footwork and anchor in pass protection. Too inconsistent with pad level. Lacks lower-body power and can be muscled. At times, he will not bring his feet with him. Needs to spend more time in the weight room and add bulk. Doesn't power off the ball and generate much movement as a run blocker. Has been injury-prone given relatively little experience, missing four games as a junior with sprained knee and part of his senior season after breaking his snapping hand.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was a backup tight end until his junior year, when he saw some limited action at guard. Made the transition full-time as a senior, where his athletic ability really stood out, and scouts became enthralled. Would fit best in a heavy zone-blocking scheme where he could use his quickness to get angles on opponents and wall off. Might not be ready to contribute immediately but may have more upside than any other lineman in the draft because he has great athletic ability and can be molded.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	7/0
2003	9/0
2004	2/0
2005	8/8

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#3

Jason SPITZ
LOUISVILLE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 305 40-YARD: 5.17



UPSIDE: Tough, smart, aggressive and flashes some nastiness. Best in a phone-booth, where he could grab cloth, latch on and control and steer defenders. Very competitive and driven. Versatile and has played guard and center. When he makes the correct read, pops his hands and works his feet, he looks like a first-day talent. Great weight-room worker and is the strongest player on the team. Very smart.

DOWNSIDE: Not the most naturally gifted athlete. Has a bad body with a soft belly and short arms. Will get in trouble lunging, leaving his feet and getting overextended. Is too top heavy and loses balance a lot. Too inconsistent. Falls off blocks. On the ground too much. Can be very sloppy with technique, let his hands dip and whiff completely. Lacks functional strength. Struggles to slide his feet and maneuver in space. Does not handle counter moves very well or show the foot quickness to easily adjust to the blitz. Not a great drive blocker and does not knock defenders off the ball. Can do a better job anchoring and holding his ground in pass protection. Doesn't play with great bend or flexibility. Injury history is a concern, with a torn pectoral muscle, partially torn labrum in his left shoulder and a torn MCL that forced him to miss six games as a freshman.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was slated to move to center as a senior but was forced back to guard to get the best offensive line on the field. Spitz is an enigma — on one series, he can look dominating and the next he looks awful. Has the intelligence and awareness that is best-suited for the center position, where he can play angles and cut off defenders. Versatility will add to his value.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	7/5
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-5TH ROUND

#4

Greg ESLINGER
MINNESOTA

HT: 6-2½ WT: 285 40-YARD: 5.13



UPSIDE: Good mobility to pull and fit on the second level and get out on the perimeter fast. Quick snap and set. Knows how to work angles and get positioning. Is able to get downfield. Shows good balance and agility. Great competitor. Can cut off defenders and seal running lanes. Effective cut blocker. Two-year captain. Married. Great work habits. Very durable and has started every game of his career. Great intangibles. Very smart and makes all the line calls.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized and looks like a pumped-up linebacker with short arms. Does not have a frame to carry much more weight. Not very stout. Lacks strength and is not physical at the point of attack. Gets knocked around easily and is too light on his feet. Doesn't power off the ball and is not going to generate any movement inside. Gets walked back to the quarterback too easily and will really struggle with massive two-gappers in the pros. Did not have the anchor strength to hold up vs. Michigan's Gabe Watson and will need a lot of help to handle big bodies. Playing strength is very limited with a marginal punch.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Cut blocker who needs to be on the move in a scheme like that of the Broncos or Falcons to be successful. Does not fit most teams but could be perfect for the Broncos and is similar to Broncos 1994 seventh-round pick Tom Nalen, who has developed into a solid starter. Very efficient in what he is asked to do despite marginal size. Won't be stacked on a lot of draft boards because he won't fit every team's system, but for those where he does, he could bring great value on the second day of the draft.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/13
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND



JASON SPITZ | LOUISVILLE

5 Will MONTGOMERY

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-2½ WT: 301 40-YARD: 5.04



UPSIDE: Quick into blocks and understands angles and leverage and position. Moves well for the position. Can pull and get out in space and shows the ability to reach linebackers. Plays on his feet. Good balance, base and punch. Will battle and scrap in tight quarters. Is able to slide his feet and stay in front of his man. Studies and prepares well for his opponent so he can see, anticipate and instinctively feel when pressure is coming. Can anchor in pass protection. Very durable. Versatile and has the ability to play multiple interior positions. Outstanding worker. Graduated early.

DOWNSIDE: Struggles to consistently reach linebackers. Gets beat by quick counter moves. Too top-heavy. Not naturally big-boned and doesn't carry weight easily. Looks maxed out and won't get much bigger. Not very stout. Average locating blockers on the second level. Has trouble anchoring. Generates little movement despite good leg drive. Does too much catching instead of delivering.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Spent two years playing guard before moving to center as a junior to replace Raiders 2004 second-round pick Jake Grove. Reminds scouts of Falcons 2002 fourth-round pick Martin Bibla. Tough, hard-nosed, overachieving, blue-collar, lunch-pail type of lineman who plays up to and beyond his ability. Has intangibles scouts could fall in love with but will always leave them wanting something more from a physical standpoint. At the worst, could be a solid backup and eventually could develop into a solid player.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	4/1
2003	13/10
2004	13/13
2005	13/13

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

6 Mike DEGORY

FLORIDA

HT: 6-4½ WT: 296 40-YARD: 5.25e



UPSIDE: Very experienced four-year starter with 50 career starts. Never missed a game. Has good size. Tough and scrappy competitor who will battle hard to the whistle. Gets positioning to wall off and seal running lanes. Smart and makes all the line calls. Good awareness and recognition vs. the blitz. Has nice playing strength. Uses his long arms well to maintain separation. Plays with a good, wide base and can hold his ground in pass protection and stand off bull-rushers. Can steer and control and will try to finish. Good football intelligence. Very coachable and learns quickly.

DOWNSIDE: Very average foot quickness. Does not show great leg drive or power. Limited flexibility affects his ability to bend and is not a natural knee-bender. Plays too straight-legged. Does not move very well laterally and can be beaten by quickness. Struggles to unlock his hips. Uses too much finesse and would expect to be more physical for his size. Is not a great space player and has difficulty hitting a moving target and adjusting downfield. Would like to see him play more nasty and drive defenders off the ball. Struggled to adjust to quick counter moves at the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Very good-sized, experienced battler with the toughness, intelligence and desire to eventually work his way into a starting lineup. However, Degory is not as strong or powerful as 2005 fourth-round pick Jason Brown (Ravens), and for a finesse, position blocker, he does not show the athletic ability that many teams seek at the position.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	13/13
2003	12/12
2004	13/13
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND

7 Pat ROSS

BOSTON COLLEGE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 294 40-YARD: 5.07



UPSIDE: Very durable and tough three-year starter in a well-coached program known for producing technique-sound, blue-collar blockers. Gets positioning and will fight, battle and scrap to sustain blocks. Shows nice agility to get out on the perimeter and can pull. Has intriguing measurables. Can short-set and slide and can mirror his man in a short area. Has been very durable and has not missed any time because of injuries. Works hard.

DOWNSIDE: Has short arms and plays small. Too top-heavy and stiff-legged. Lacks strength in the lower body. Carries his hands low, drops his head and will cross his feet at times. Struggles to recover vs. quickness. Does not play with power or explosion, and you rarely see him come off the ball with good hip roll. Can struggle to make contact in space vs. better athletes. Drops his head and whiffs. Struggles to regain position after he gets beat and can be taken for a ride in pass protection. Disappointed scouts during Hula Bowl week with average effort and athletic ability.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Entered college as a defensive tackle but converted to center after his first year and turned out to be a very dependable college player. Technique is not very refined, and he does his best work in tandems. A solid positional blocker who can get out in space. Showed versatility at Hula Bowl by playing guard and center and could stick in the league as a backup. His good measurables and the lack of depth at center could force a team to draft him earlier than he grades out.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	3/0
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-7TH ROUND

8 Chris MORRIS

MICHIGAN STATE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 299 40-YARD: 5.3e



UPSIDE: Tough overachiever. Good size. Good strength. Very smart and makes all the line calls. Understands how to use angles to his advantage and gets good positioning. Uses his hands well to sustain blocks. Assignment sound and usually graded out above 90 percent in almost every game as a senior. Has long-snapping ability and is a consistent short-snapper. Very diligent worker. Plays hard and goes to the whistle. Very good character.

DOWNSIDE: Limited athletically and does not show the agility and lateral quickness to adjust at the second level. Does not show much explosive power and will not dominate any one-on-one matchups. Not very tough or nasty. Does not play very physical. Not a natural bender and does not play with good leverage. Is more of a grabber than a puncher and can do a better job striking with his hands. Plodder in space. Does not easily adjust and fit on linebackers. Durability is a concern having had reconstructive surgery on his left knee and a stress fracture on his right foot.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Morris will do whatever it takes to earn a roster spot and will be a player who is always difficult to cut, but his lack of athletic ability, foot quickness and power will always leave teams wanting more. Is a finesse, wall-off angle blocker who will fit best with a zone-blocking team. Snapping ability could be his ticket. Could wind up being overlooked by teams after not receiving a Combine invitation and turn out to be a solid value pick in the later rounds.

GAMES

YEAR	GP/GS
2002	9/0
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	11/11

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 6TH-7TH ROUND

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in C prospects

Study Hall of Fame centers and some key traits stand out — **intelligence** to make line calls, the **hand and foot quickness** to react quickly and adjust in space and balance and **base strength** to battle massive pluggers. The top centers in the game today — Tom Nalen and Kevin Mawae — have those traits.

FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE

Centers are most often responsible for setting blocking assignments at the line of scrimmage and must be able to quickly recognize what type of front they are trying to subdue before making line calls. Denver has not had a lot of great offensive tackles, with C Tom Nalen being the most pivotal player on an O-line that has paved the way for many 1,000-yard rushers. He takes great angles and is as instinctive as any center in football.

CENTER

PROTOTYPE: Dermontti Dawson
Dawson should be a lock to enter the Hall of Fame with his combination of smarts, strength and quickness.

BASE STRENGTH

A center who cannot sink his hips and hold his ground vs. a mammoth run-stuffer can disrupt a team's running game and even affect the center-snap exchange. Centers need to have enough lower-body strength to maintain their balance, keep their feet underneath them and anchor at the point of attack.

HAND/FOOT QUICKNESS

Some of the best centers ever to have played the position, including Mike Webster and Dwight Stephenson, were barely bigger than linebackers, but they were very agile and could scoop, get out in space and cut off linebackers. Stephenson was so quick he could help out his offensive tackle after setting in pass protection, as centers sometimes need to be able to do. Often being uncovered at the line of scrimmage, they must be able to move and adjust quickly. A center's hands must also be very quick with only one hand being free to block initially. Dermontti Dawson had exceptional snap-and-step quickness.

— N.N.



PHOTO BY HARRY SCULL, JR.

C
#9 **Donovan RAIOLA**
WISCONSIN
HT: 6-2 WT: 297 40-YARD: 5.3e

UPSIDE: Shows some quickness and athletic ability to handle movement. Can slide and pick up the blitz when he sees it. Is intelligent and makes the line calls. Has NFL bloodlines; brother, Dominic, was a second-round pick of the Lions in 2001.

DOWNSIDE: Plays too soft and avoids contact. Not tough, physical or nasty. Too inconsistent. Lacks ideal height and girth. Has a lazy approach. Too often underachieves. Very average punch. Struggles to run his feet on contact. Is not asked to do a lot but down-block. Does not consistently see pressure coming and will allow some rush lanes to open and leave his QB susceptible to clean hits. Doesn't know what it means to finish and rarely does. Disappointed scouts with passive play, lack of intensity at East-West Shrine game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has not lived up to his press clippings and doesn't really stand out in any area like you would expect a three-year starter and brother of a former Outland Trophy winner to do. A finesse zone-blocker who will be challenged to earn a roster spot and will be lucky to be drafted.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	5/1
2003	13/13
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH-FREE AGENT

C
#10 **Marvin PHILIP**
CALIFORNIA
HT: 6-1 1/4 WT: 294 40-YARD: 5.25e

UPSIDE: Very competitive, scrappy blocker with quick hands to control and steer defenders. Plays with nice pad level and balance. Stays on his feet and can stick with his man. Can short-pull and is quick enough to get out on linebackers. Good football intelligence. Plays with a solid base in pass protection.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal height and is undersized with minor durability concerns (shoulder and knee). Poor upper-body strength and gets ragdolled at times. Will struggle handling big bodies straight up and won't drive anyone off the ball. Gets driven back into the backfield more than he should. Very limited pop in his punch.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Limited by his size, but intangibles could give him a chance to be drafted late. Needs to spend more time in the weight room and improve his strength to handle big blockers. Will have to fight to make a roster and will never be more than a backup but has the type of attitude with which teams like to fill out the bottom of their roster.

GAMES	
YEAR	GP/GS
2002	7/4
2003	6/4
2004	12/12
2005	12/12

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 7TH-FREE AGENT

BEST OF THE REST

- GRAYLING LOVE** | Arizona State
Smart, versatile, dependable overachiever.
- LANCE ANTOLICK** | Penn State
Undersized zone blocker with some upside.
- RUDY NISWANGER** | LSU
Incredibly intelligent and versatile.
- NICK MILHAUSER** | Washington State
Shows some athletic ability to get a shot.
- RUSS TANNER** | Georgia
Tough overachiever who will battle and claw.
- JOHN MILLER** | South Florida
Functional college player limited only by size.
- MATT LENTZ** | Michigan
Size and experience could put him in a camp.
- BRIAN VAN ACKER** | Northern Illinois
Did a decent job vs. Michigan's Gabe Watson.
- KILI LEFOTU** | Arizona
Raw developmental prospect with versatility.
- CHRIS McNEIL** | Mississippi
Measurables could garner some attention.

DE PROSPECTS

Pass rushers have surprisingly slid in the draft in recent years despite the great premium placed on the position. Not since Julius Peppers was selected with the second overall pick in 2002 has a premier defensive end been selected in the top five.

All that is about to change with the early departure of Mario Williams from North Carolina State. Williams does not have the basketball background of Peppers, nor the same fluidity and hand-eye coordination, but he is bigger and stronger than Peppers and nearly as athletic. He has all the physical tools to be a disrupt-

tive difference-maker and will make the job of some defensive coordinator a lot easier, especially if he learns to pin back his ears all of the time like he did late in 2005.

The importance of a premier pass rusher may not be more evident than in Florida State's loss of Kamerion Wimbley late in the year. As soon as he went down, the Seminoles lost three games and let Charlie Whitehurst and Chris Leak pick them apart, allowing more points than they did all year. With Wimbley, the Seminoles did not have to blitz to bring pressure, and opponents were forced to roll protection his way to account for him. He has gotten better every year and should

continue to do so in the pros, with a final destination of the Pro Bowl not far off.

Boston College's Mathias Kiwanuka did not have the senior year he had anticipated after injuring his ankle in the season opener, but his consistent production in a top-tier college program will not go unnoticed.

Overall, the quality of this class is solid and deeper than it has been since 2003, when 12 defensive ends were selected on the first day. No pass rusher in this class has the explosiveness of Dwight Freeney, but Freeney's effectiveness is opening eyes around the league to giving undersized pass rushers more of a chance.

And there are plenty in this class.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

B

#1 **Mario WILLIAMS [JR.]**
NORTH CAROLINA STATE
HT: 6-6e WT: 285e 40-YARD: 4.65e

UPSIDE: Rare physical specimen with tremendous natural athleticism. Looks the part with long arms, huge hands and a giant wingspan. Reported to camp at almost 300 pounds and carried the weight very well. Looks like a man among boys. Has natural pass-rush ability. Very strong upper body and just swats blockers around. Stout vs. the run and can stack the corner and control blockers. Can play every position on the defensive line. Very durable. Has started all 36 games of his career and has played through injuries. Tremendous upside. Only 20 years old and is mature beyond his years.

DOWNSIDE: Needs to be more consistent and does not dominate like he should all the time. Could play with better leverage, hand use and pad level. Scouts would like to see him play with more urgency. Does not have great instincts. Takes some plays off.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Big, strong, powerful base end with rare physical ability. Comes in the same mold as Julius Peppers and Courtney Brown. His hands are not as good as Peppers', and he's not as physical as Brown was, but he is stronger than both. When he wants to be, he can be a sheer force, but his motor needs to run all the time like it did late in the year after Chuck Amato challenged him at midseason. Williams has the full package and can flat-out change games. He plays the run and pass better than any defensive end who has come out in a long time and has all the makings of a future star. Can fit just as easily in a 3-4 scheme as he could as a 4-3 base end. The eighth wonder of the world, Williams is worth considering with the very first pick in any given year.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2003	13/13	56	13	5	5	2	1
2004	11/11	57	15	6	2	0	0
2005	12/12	62	24	14.5	2	1	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

DE

#2

Kameron WIMBLEY

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 6-3½ WT: 252 40-YARD: 4.65e



UPSIDE: Has a solid frame to grow and is capable of holding 275 pounds. Has good body control and balance and really pressurizes the edges. Very naturally athletic and can drop into coverage. Looks elastic and shows the short-area burst to work the edge and close fast to the quarterback. Very active. Can lock on and drive back blockers with nice power. Fluid mover. Made Miami (Fla.) OT Eric Winston look bad and made some plays against Virginia's D'Brickshaw Ferguson. Plays with great energy. Outstanding worker. Exceptional character.

DOWNSIDE: A little duck-footed and feet point outward. Not very big-boned and is still leaner than some teams would like. Could be more stout vs. the run and play with more leverage. Gets moved when the ball is run right at him and needs to add some bulk to anchor down and hold his ground. Needs to get stronger. Can get caught up in traffic. Sprained his knee and missed most of the final four regular-season games.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has added 10 pounds of muscle every year since arriving as a 210-pound freshman and has gotten better every year. Impact, disruptiveness and value to team cannot be fully quantified in statistics. Perfect fit as a rush linebacker in a 3-4 scheme and would be ideal as a rush defensive end in a 4-3. Bigger and more flexible than Cowboys first-round pick DeMarcus Ware, although not quite as athletic and does not bend off the edge as well.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	14/0	17	0	0	1	0	2	
2003	13/0	38	6.5	2.5	2	1	1	
2004	13/2	27	5.5	2	1	1	0	
2005	11/11	26	11	7.5	4	0	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST ROUND

DE

#3

Mathias KIWANUKA

BOSTON COLLEGE

HT: 6-5½ WT: 258 40-YARD: 4.74



UPSIDE: Has good range and great span with very long arms to alter and disrupt passing lanes. Moves very well for his size and can close fast to the ball. Covers a lot of ground with long strides. Can turn his shoulders, make himself skinny and fit through rush lanes. Is athletic enough to fall back into coverage and handle small zones. Very smart. Solid character. Very good career production over the last four years. Showed more explosion, speed, burst and better change of direction as a junior, when he was healthy.

DOWNSIDE: High-cut. Plays too upright and pad level fluctuates too much. Injuries and a case of senioritis led to inconsistent play. When he is run at, he lacks the strength to anchor and can be eliminated. Gets overpowered at the point of attack and needs to play with better leverage. Leaves his feet too much and leaves some sacks on the field because of it. Has narrow shoulders and is without much muscle mass. Not very instinctive. Does not show a lot of counter and double-moves to come free.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was recruited as a token to attract high school teammate Jeremy Trueblood and turned out to be a better player. Suffered a high ankle sprain in the season opener vs. BYU and did not look as quick or swift afoot as he did in years past. Reminds some scouts of San Francisco 49ers 2001 seventh overall draft pick Andre Carter, who has been injury-prone and largely unproductive as a pro. Will likely be drafted higher than he should.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	13/2	44	7.5	5	2	1	1	
2003	13/13	83	16	11.5	5	1	1	
2004	12/10	67	25.5	11.5	2	0	0	
2005	10/10	51	16.5	9.5	4	1	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST-2ND ROUND

DE

#4

Tamba HALI

PENN STATE

HT: 6-2e WT: 270e 40-YARD: 4.75e



UPSIDE: Very productive. Has a frame to support 290 pounds. Has a quick first step and very quick, active hands. Strong and powerful and plays with attitude. Battles every snap and keeps working his feet until he comes free. A ball of energy who will strike and unload on big blockers. Instinctive. Follows and tracks down the ball well and works hard to come free. Intense competitor. Hits through ballcarriers and is explosive on contact. Shows good play strength vs. the run and plays hard. Athletic enough to fall back into zones in coverage and strong enough to move inside in third-down situations.

DOWNSIDE: Is shorter than scouts would like and has short arms that allow him to get engulfed by big-bodied tacklers. Was stymied vs.

Northwestern ORT Zack Strief and overpowered at the point of attack. Deliberate in his plant and go. Does not have elite pass-rush ability or show a lot of inside counter moves and gets banged around too much. Lacks great size to play inside every down and the premier speed to turn the corner vs. top-tier offensive tackles. Not a great athlete. Too reckless and doesn't always keep his feet underneath him. A lot of his production comes from the scheme when he is slanted and uncovered.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A converted defensive tackle who still plays with a banger's mentality and needs to be accounted for because he is so disruptive. Best with his hand on ground rushing the passer.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	12/0	10	1	0	0	0	0	
2003	12/11	53	6	1	1	0	1	
2004	11/11	51	12	2	1	1	0	
2005	12/12	65	17	11	4	1	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST-2ND ROUND



TAMBA HALI | PENN STATE

#5

Parys
HARALSON

TENNESSEE

HT: 6-2e WT: 250e 40-YARD: 4.75e



UPSIDE: Motor is always running. Shows good quickness and has a nice first step. Very tough, highly respected by teammates and is the meanest player on the line. Good burst. Can dip and rip off the edge and shows a nice spin move. Works his feet to come free and surprisingly can hold the point despite lacking ideal bulk. Has strong legs and uses force with his hands. Can separate and beat blockers with an inside punch. Good closing speed. As soon as he throws his hips in the hole, blockers can say good-bye. Really tests left tackles and makes them bend and work. Plays smart and with good technique and gets the most out of his ability. Defensive leader.

DOWNSIDE:

Undersized and lacks ideal height. Has short arms and struggles to escape blocks once he is engaged. Can get engulfed and washed aside. Lacks the bulk to hold ground and gives up a lot of size to offensive linemen.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Very good college football player who lacks ideal size to stick at defensive end for most teams. He could be very productive and could bring value as a 3-4 rush linebacker for teams like the Colts, Texans or Browns. Undersized defensive ends have shown they can make an impact as pass rushers in a league of big men. Haralson has the quickness and burst to start at right defensive end for a penetrating, one-gap attack. Could even be a surprising late first-round pick.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	13/0	25	2	1	0	0	0	
2003	13/10	44	14.5	4.5	1	0	1	
2004	13/12	43	13.5	7	0	2	2	
2005	11/11	45	16.5	8.5	1	3	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

#6

Manny
LAWSON

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

HT: 6-4e WT: 230e 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Plays hard and can really run and close fast to the ball. Chases hard on the backside and shows excellent pursuit speed. Uses his hands well to sift his way through trash. Can eat up lesser left tackles. Shows surprising strength at the point of attack. Has a great motor. Workout warrior. Will test through the roof. Runs 4x100 relays and is a triple-jumper on the track team. Great leaping ability. Has seven career blocked kicks. Tough. Smart.

DOWNSIDE: Too skinny and undersized and looks almost rail-thin. Lacks bulk and bulk strength. Will get shut down by elite, upper-echelon NFL offensive tackles. A bit tight-hipped and slow to change directions. Too straight-linish and will over-run and overpursue. Gets washed by double teams. Needs to add more variety of pass-rush moves and gets shut down too easily if he can't win with speed.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Scouts dinged Jason Taylor for being too skinny and narrow-framed when he was coming out of Akron in 1997, but Lawson looks a lot like the former third-rounder and current All-Pro, who now plays a hybrid rush linebacker/open-side end type of role that would be ideal for Lawson. Not expected to be on the draft boards of about half of the teams in the league that put a premium on size, and some clubs will be concerned about Lawson's ability to withstand a pounding. But for the right team, Lawson could make an impact. Best pro position may be as a rush linebacker.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	14/0	35	1	0	4	1	0	
2003	13/3	53	7	3	3	2	1	
2004	11/11	50	12	7	5	1	2	
2005	12/11	58	19.5	10.5	4	1	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#7

Julian
JENKINS

STANFORD

HT: 6-3½e WT: 270e 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Has great size and a frame to add bulk. Plays with leverage at the point of attack and shows good power. Has long arms and big, strong hands that he uses well to control blockers and disengage. Solid in the trenches and can anchor down vs. the run. Can occupy blockers and stack the point. Moves well laterally and shows good change of direction. Stays on his feet in traffic and shows good balance. Plays with good leverage and natural bend. Can shock blockers with a quick punch. Showed improvement late in the year and really stood out vs. UCLA. Competes hard and plays with energy. Has NFL bloodlines. Great worker. Solid character. Very durable.

DOWNSIDE:

Not a gifted pass rusher. Needs room to operate and is best outside. Not very quick-twitched. Does not make as many plays as he could and is not a great finisher. Does not split the double-team. Can do a better job holding his ground. Lacks killer instinct.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: With coaching change, the Cardinal moved Jenkins inside to a five-technique in their 3-4 base defense, and he was not as productive playing inside. He stood out more as a junior as a base end, and his future needs to be on the outside as a 7- or 9-technique. In a 4-3 defense, he could be a solid base defensive left end, but with big, physical defensive linemen not easy to find for "30" fronts, his best chance will likely come in the increasingly popular 3-4.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	9/1	17	2.5	1.5	0	1	1	
2003	11/0	16	2.5	2.5	0	1	0	
2004	11/11	47	8	5.5	1	0	2	
2005	11/11	50	9	7	0	1	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#8

Darryl
TAPP

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-1½ WT: 266 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Gives great effort and plays hard. Outstanding competitor. Twists, turns and can be difficult to block. Works his way into the backfield and can be disruptive. Is strong to separate and punch and works to come under blocks. Instinctive. Finds the ball and gets there fast. Works down the line of scrimmage to make plays. Good wrap tackler in the box and in space. Makes plays all the way across the field and is highly productive. Recognized for being team's hardest worker. Solid character.

DOWNSIDE: A lot of production comes vs. inferior competition. Not a pure pass rusher and shows few counter moves. Lines up wide and needs space to operate. Not very explosive and takes time to get into blocks.

Almost looks like he is spying before he goes. Has a pear-shaped body. Does not have the speed to contribute on special teams. Does not stand out in many areas other than his effort.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A tweener who is too slow to be an open-side, rush end and not big enough to be a true base end. Some scouts think he is no better than 2005 sixth-round pick Johnathan Goddard or 2004 fifth-round pick Nathaniel Adibi and fits more as a situational pass rusher in the pros. Should get drafted much sooner by a penetrating upfield attack. The type of player you root for, he may break a team's heart if expectations are too great.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	14/0	21	0	0	1	0	0	
2003	13/4	58	9	3	1	2	0	
2004	13/13	60	16.5	8.5	1	1	2	
2005	13/13	48	14.5	10	3	3	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE DE

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in DE prospects

Right defensive ends are generally more **explosive**, pass-rushing threats, and left defensive ends need to have more **base strength** to stop the run. But all defensive ends must be able to **use their hands** to defeat blocks. Special ends play every down like their last and have great **range**.

EXPLOSIVENESS

A pass rusher must have a long first step to force an offensive tackle to open his shoulders and become susceptible to getting beat upfield or inside. Keying on the point of the tip of the ball, being able to time the snap and get a great take-off is what separates Dwight Freeney from others. He is the most quick-twitched, highly explosive pass rusher in football with 4.4 speed and tremendous burst off the snap.

HAND USE

Deacon Jones used the head slap. Reggie White used the club. Howie Long used the forearm shiver. Chris Doleman would grab cloth and dip inside. Freeney rips and spins. A variety of pass-rush moves is essential to disrupting a blocker's balance. Premier pass-rushers know how to control blockers with a combination of finesse and power. They push and pull until they come free.

DEFENSIVE END PROTOTYPE: Reggie White
Became the only player to notch three sacks in a Super Bowl with his trademark club move.

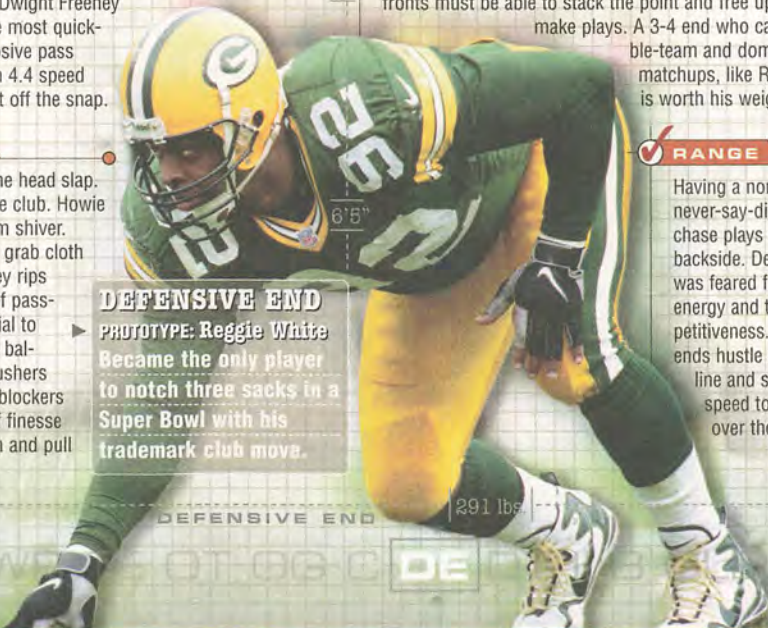
BASE STRENGTH

To stop the run, especially on the left side where base ends are frequently tested, an end must be able to anchor down, maintain leverage and constrict running lanes, a mighty task in the face of double-teams. Defensive linemen in increasingly employed 3-4 fronts must be able to stack the point and free up linebackers to make plays. A 3-4 end who can split the double-team and dominate one-on-one matchups, like Richard Seymour, is worth his weight in gold.

RANGE

Having a nonstop motor and never-say-die attitude to chase plays down from the backside. Derrick Thomas was feared for his relentless energy and top-notch competitiveness. Great defensive ends hustle sideline to sideline and show the closing speed to make plays all over the field.

— N.N.



ICON SPORTS MEDIA

#9

Ryan LACASSE

SYRACUSE

HT: 6-2 1/4 WT: 252 40-YARD: 4.69



UPSIDE: Has a tremendous first step with a sprinter's take-off speed. Flies off the edge and plays at 100 mph. Excellent acceleration.

Moves very well in a straight line and makes a lot of plays on the backside with hustle and desire. Plays fast. Athletic enough to slip back into coverage and defend short areas. Great weight-room worker. Does all he is asked and more and has passion for game.

DOWNSIDE: Too tightly wound. Struggles to get off blocks and does not redirect easily. Not very fluid or naturally athletic. Not a natural space player. Has small hands. Lacks strength at the point of attack and gets wiped out by double-teams. Does not bend very well off the edge. A tweener who lacks the size to play end and the agility to play linebacker. Will not be a full-time starter for some teams. Not very instinctive.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: High school running back and sprinter who entered college at 220 pounds and matured physically. Is being projected to stand up by some teams, but most of his success has come moving forward, not backward, and the transition to playing in a two-point stance could be challenging. Reminds some scouts of Texans 2004 first-rounder Jason Babin, who has struggled to adapt so far in the pros, and is similar to Bills 2003 second-round pick Chris Kelsay. Has improved his draft stock as much as any player in the Northeast, but the question scouts must answer is whether he could be more than a situational pass rusher.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	11/0	19	4.5	2.5	0	1	1	
2003	12/0	15	0	0	1	0	0	
2004	12/0	32	7	5	0	4	0	
2005	11/11	52	12	9	1	3	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#10

Rob NINKOVICH

PURDUE

HT: 6-2 1/2 WT: 255e 40-YARD: 4.65e



UPSIDE: Shows natural pass-rush skills and nice agility to work off blocks. Can bend off the edge and get to the passer. Good take-off. Has good hands and can snag the ball cleanly, as he showed on two interceptions. Has lined up at tight end in junior college and in goal-line situations for the Boilermakers and caught a TD pass vs. Illinois. Uses hands well to push, pull and jar defenders off balance. Tough. Plays to the whistle. Blue-collar worker. Has great production for only being a half-year starter. Very durable.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized and struggles when to shed and play the run when it is right at him. Lacks great bulk and play strength. Not very smart. Shows some tightness in his hips and does not bend well. Only a half-year starter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Unseated Ray Edwards for a starting job halfway through the season and never looked back, being voted the team's MVP by his teammates. Can play with his hand on the ground in a 3-4 defense and make an immediate contribution on special teams. Not as big, smart or instinctive as Mike Vrabel but is a good football player cut from the same type of mold. Has shown the versatility to appeal to a team like the Patriots, and some scouts even think he should be a tight end in the pros because of his good hands. Really came on during the second half and finished the season with great momentum. A Rocky Balboa type of overachiever who has overcome all odds.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2004	12/0	23	9.5	8	4	0	0	
2005	11/5	48	17	8	2	2	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#11

Victor
ADEYANJU

INDIANA

HT: 6-4 WT: 266 40-YARD: 4.62

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	12/9	33	4.5	2	0	0	0
2003	12/12	31	5	1	1	1	0
2004	11/11	40	9.5	4	3	3	1
2005	11/11	47	12	6.5	3	1	0

UPSIDE: Four-year starter in the Big Ten Conference. Looks the part with a solid, muscular build, long arms and natural strength. Comes off the ball with good leverage and stays on his feet. Shows a burst to close and can get physical with a power rush. Keeps his feet moving and has a good motor. Chases from the backside and plays hard. Athletic enough to zone-drop. Very durable. Good work ethic.

DOWNSIDE: Still raw for being as experienced as he is and is still learning the game. Not a creative pass rusher. Not overly agile or very fluid changing directions. Too straight-linish. Comes off the ball too upright. Not a great finisher.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Straight-line speed rusher with the natural athletic ability to warrant looks on the first day but does not consistently make plays or ever really pop off tape. Scouts would like to see more production and more refinement from a four-year starter, but his upside is undeniable.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

#12

Elvis
DUMERVIL

LOUISVILLE

HT: 5-11½ WT: 254 40-YARD: 4.68

BY THE NUMBERS

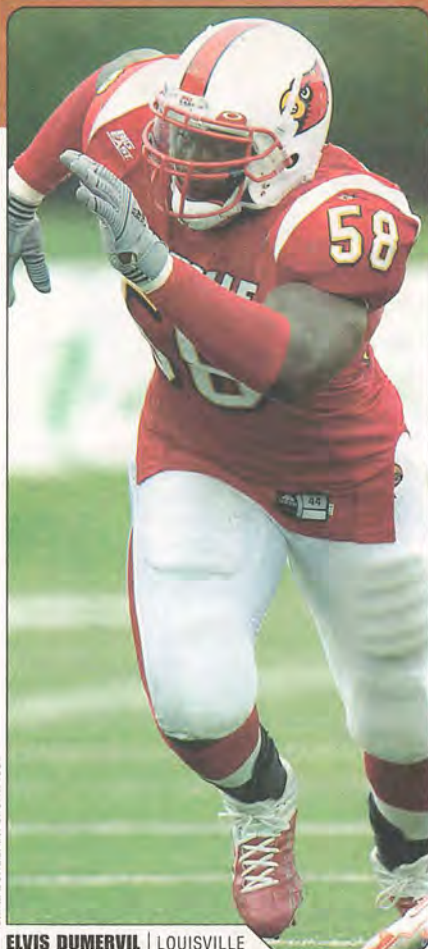
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	7/0	6	2	0	0	0	0
2003	13/0	28	6	2	0	0	1
2004	12/12	52	11.5	10	0	1	1
2005	12/12	65	23	20	4	11	1

UPSIDE: Solidly built, muscular and compact. Has an extremely strong upper body and uses his hands well. Has long arms. Outstanding production with a nation-leading 20 sacks and 11 forced fumbles. Can be a very disruptive, havoc-wreaking force. Shows a good take-off.

DOWNSIDE: Production is inflated from facing inferior competition. Performance slipped late in the year with no sacks in the final four games. Can be eliminated. Too small and will wear down over the course of a longer season. Not a great athlete to move in space. Limited explosion and lacks lower-body strength.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Reminds scouts of Bills 2000 third-round pick Corey Moore without the great motor and has very similar measurables to Colts 2005 third-round pick Vincent Burns. Nothing more than a situational pass rusher for many teams and has not shown the lateral quickness to break down and easily transition to LB.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND



DAVID DUBOCHK / SPORTSPICS

ELVIS DUMERVIL | LOUISVILLE

#13

Mark
ANDERSON

ALABAMA

HT: 6-3 WT: 263 40-YARD: 4.8e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	13/0	13	1	2	0	2	1
2003	13/6	48	8	2.5	0	0	0
2004	12/12	41	11	1.5	2	2	2
2005	12/12	40	14	7.5	0	1	0

UPSIDE: Has solid size and strength, with long arms and a frame to get bigger. Can stack the point and hold the edge. Gets off the ball quickly and shows good speed in a straight line. Good motor. Can close on the move. Active and will chase and make plays from the backside. Strong tackler. Competes hard. Has a good attitude and wants to learn.

DOWNSIDE: Too tight in the hips and does not change direction or use his hands very well and, as a result, struggles to get off blocks. Only has an inside move that works vs. inferior competition. Lacks the quickness to turn the corner. Not a great athlete. Gets out of position overpursuing. Limited explosion and not overly powerful.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Would be best in a penetrating, one-gap defense where he could shoot gaps, and he has enough quickness, strength and range to stick as at least a backup and contributor on special teams. Stock elevated at Senior Bowl.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

#14

Ray
EDWARDS [JR.]

PURDUE

HT: 6-6e WT: 270e 40-YARD: 4.7e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2003	13/0	10	2.5	2.5	0	0	1
2004	12/12	45	11	8	4	2	1
2005	11/6	28	11	5.5	1	0	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Outstanding size and size potential. Really looks the part. Flashes some speed to close and shows initial quickness off the snap. Has some upside if he matures.

DOWNSIDE: Takes too many plays off. Plays upright. Doesn't have a lot of fight in him. Not strong at the point or anchoring down. Doesn't attack. Limited change of direction. Not a great worker. Lacks mental toughness and packs it in when things don't go his way. Does not make many plays. Not a great competitor. Relies too much on natural athleticism. Plays soft. Scouts do not like his motor, production and personality.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has physical attributes of a first rounder but plays like a free agent. Won't be stacked on a lot of draft boards because of competitiveness and coachability issues. Best spot might be as a three-technique in a 4-3 scheme if he could bulk up.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

#15

Melvin
OLIVER

LSU

HT: 6-3e WT: 285e 40-YARD: 5.1e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	13/0	29	6.5	6	1	0	3
2003	14/1	31	4	4	3	0	2
2004	12/10	36	5	1	2	0	0
2005	13/13	69	11	9	1	0	0

UPSIDE: Big, strong, thick and stout. Shows some pass-rush ability and shows that he can get upfield and be disruptive. Has good balance. Will make some big plays. Competes hard. Earned defensive MVP honors in the Capital One Bowl in 2004 and again in the Peach Bowl in 2005, rising to the occasion in big games. Improving player who has matured.

DOWNSIDE: Doesn't have much production. Not very powerful. Doesn't come off the ball with much explosion inside and gets walled off too easily outside. Uses too much finesse for a big man. Can be slow to shed blocks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Strong 3-4 base defensive end who is similar to former LSU Tiger and Patriots 2002 fourth-round draft pick Jarvis Green, who has exceeded expectations and fit in well in the Patriots' 3-4 defense as a pro. Has the versatility to kick inside and could fit as a three- or five-technique.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH ROUND

#16

Barry
COFIELD
NORTHWESTERN

HT: 6-3 WT: 315 40-YARD: 4.96

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	12/1	36	2	0	0	1	1
2003	13/12	46	2	1	0	1	1
2004	12/11	52	5	3.5	3	0	0
2005	12/12	63	6.5	2	5	2	1

UPSIDE: Big and barrel-chested. Strong and powerful. When he is fresh, he comes off the ball quickly, plays with good pad level and can come off blocks. Moves well laterally and can flatten down the line, redirect and make tackles outside the box. Strong anchor vs. the run and has enough size and upper-body strength to push the pocket and fight the double-team. Flashes ability to be very disruptive early in games. Has the versatility to play every position on the line. Can stack the point and two-gap or get upfield and penetrate. Smart.

DOWNSIDE: Tires and wears down too easily and has had problems with stamina and conditioning. Not a full-time player who is going to play 60 snaps every game. When he is tired, he comes off the ball late and plays too upright.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has played inside and out but is more natural outside and would fit best as a left defensive end in a "30" front. Could excel in a rotation.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

#17

Charlton
KEITH
KANSAS

HT: 6-4½ WT: 235 40-YARD: 4.65e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	13/5	33	7	7	2	2	0
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	11/0	21	7	3	3	1	2
2005	12/12	46.5	20	8.5	7	2	1

UPSIDE: Has long arms and uses them pretty well to separate from blockers. Tough and instinctive. Shows a nice burst off the edge and can beat blockers with quickness. Plays hard and makes plays sideline to sideline. Plays fast. Shows some natural pass-rush ability. Has a long first step, can get skinny and rip underneath the shoulder of blockers. Good agility and balance. Feels pressure and is able to beat it. Good worker. Extremely competitive.

DOWNSIDE: Not a special pass rusher. Will always have to be manufactured to keep weight on. Gives up a lot of size to blockers and needs to add bulk and get stronger. Only a one-year starter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Converted high school quarterback who has had to gain a lot of weight to play end and would still be a developmental project for many teams. Could fit a situational pass-rusher role and eventually develop into a solid speed rusher with continued physical development.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#18

Frostee
RUCKER
USC

HT: 6-3 WT: 263 40-YARD: 4.8e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/5	26	4	1.5	1	1	2
2004	13/12	29	7.5	2.5	2	1	1
2005	13/13	56	14	6.5	1	2	1

UPSIDE: Is quick off the ball and has quick hands. Athletic and shows some pass-rush ability. Solid production. Plays in the backfield and led the team in tackles for loss. Shows good pursuit down the line of scrimmage and has good play range to close fast on the ball. Hits on the rise and shows some pop as a tackler. Emotional leader.

DOWNSIDE: Does not like to fight pressure and struggles to stack the point. Is not a two-gapper. Slow to change directions and will get washed playside. Much of his production comes when he is unblocked and unencumbered. Needs to play stronger, play bigger and do a better job of staying on his feet and clearing clutter. Does not have great instincts.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Made his senior season his best and improved his draft stock. Could be effective in a penetrating scheme where he is slanting and stunting like that of the Buccaneers, Bears or Colts.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#19

Chris
GOCONG
CAL-POLY

HT: 6-2 WT: 254 40-YARD: 4.81

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2001	6/0	6	1	0	0	0	0
2003	11/11	37	8	1	2	0	0
2004	11/11	71	21.5	17.5	2	2	1
2005	13/13	98	31	23.5	4	4	2

UPSIDE: Very smart. Great football intelligence. Outstanding worker. Plays with great effort and energy. Plays fast. Outstanding production. Was honored with the Buck Buchanan Award, given annually to the top defensive player in Division I-AA football. Plays with nice leverage, gets underneath the pads of blockers and shows some power to bull-rush. Will hit, spin, scrap and fight to beat blockers.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized. Not very explosive. Struggles to get free when he is locked up. Needs to do a better job of shedding big blockers. Gets handled by double-teams. Does not have the burst and lateral quickness to easily transition to linebacker.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Gocung's production is eye-opening and will give him a chance to compete in the big leagues, but he is a big fish in a small pond, and when he enters the ocean known as the NFL, he could get eaten alive. He lacks the size, quickness and burst to be effective in-line.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

#20

Stanley
MCCLOVER [JR.]
AUBURN

HT: 6-2e WT: 250e 40-YARD: 4.65e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2003	DNP	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	13/2	35	10	7.5	2	4	0
2005	11/7	31	13.5	8	3	1	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Is quick and has some pass-rush ability. Tough. Played with a high ankle sprain most of the season. Solid production and led the team in sacks and tackles for loss despite missing action and playing in a rotation. Lines up wide and gets upfield fast when he is unblocked.

DOWNSIDE: Not very sudden or explosive. Takes plays off and loafs on the backside. Not a full-time player. Very undersized and is smaller than many NFL linebackers. Lacks size and size potential as an end and is not as fast, fluid or athletic as scouts would like an outside linebacker to be. Looks a little stiff, does not play with leverage and gets driven off the ball too easily. Likes to talk on the field. Entered Auburn as a partial qualifier and is not very smart. Durability is a minor issue, with hamstring and ankle injuries.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could have definitely used another year in school to mature physically.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

BEST
OF
THE REST

21. **JAMES WYCHE** | Syracuse
Played well at the East-West Shrine game.
22. **CHARLES BENNETT** | Clemson
Undersized pass rusher came on late in year.
23. **MIKE KUDLA** | Ohio State
Plays with energy, may get looks as a rush LB.
24. **COPELAND BRYAN** | Arizona
Quick, athletic, undersized pass rusher.
25. **DARRELL ADAMS** | Villanova
Big, strong, smart base DE flashes power.
26. **JASON HATCHER** | Grambling State
Developmental player with size, natural strength.
27. **JAVON NANTON** | Miami (Fla.)
Raw, athletic defensive pass-rush specialist.
28. **ERIC HENDERSON** | Georgia Tech
Overachiever limited by injury history.
29. **MATT RICE** | Penn State
Plays hard and has overcome a lot of adversity.
30. **BRANDON GUILLORY** | La.-Monroe
Former walk-on grew into dominant D-II rusher.

DT PROSPECTS

The past two years, defensive tackles have slid down draft boards. It could be attributed partly to a lack of premium talent at the position but also perhaps the higher bust rate involved with the position. What's difficult in the evaluation of defensive tackles is that they have become so increasingly large, with very few weighing in at less than 300 pounds, that their stamina is rarely what it used to be for defensive linemen. Many need to play in a rotation to be effective, and they generally take a longer time to develop and do not provide the instant return that other positions do.

As a result, defensive tackles have taken a hit. This year could mark the first time since 2003 that a defensive tackle is drafted in the top 10, with a talented group of juniors improving what was a decent crop of defensive tackles.

A player with the combination of size, strength and quickness of Oregon's Haloti Ngata has not come around in a while, and Ngata projects to be the first defensive tackle drafted.

North Carolina State's John McCargo is very talented in his own right and, injuries notwithstanding, could be drafted higher than many expect.

With the 3-4 defense becoming more prominent, a need has been created for massive pluggers who can dominate the line of scrimmage and control two gaps inside to free up linebackers. Ngata will attract a lot of interest for that reason, and among the senior class, Florida State's Brodrick Bunkley and Michigan's Gabe Watson will come off draft boards fast to key the 3-4 attack.

In all, there could easily be 10-12 defensive tackles drafted on the first day, making this year's group much deeper than most typical DT crops. LSU's Claude Wroten has clear first-round talent and would be an excellent fit in a one-gap defense like the Colts' or Bears', as would Virginia Tech's Jonathan Lewis and Miami (Fla.)'s Orien Harris, but all have some glaring holes. Wroten's post-season arrest could force his draft stock to tumble a bit, and Lewis and Harris have not shown the every-down motor desired in that type of scheme.

Others with the talent to receive consideration on Day One include Texas' Rodrique Wright, Texas A&M's Johnny Jolly and Tennessee's Tony McDaniel. LSU's Kyle Williams and Oklahoma's Dusty Dvoracek play so hard that they will command first-day attention.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

B

DT
#1

Haloti NGATA [JR.]

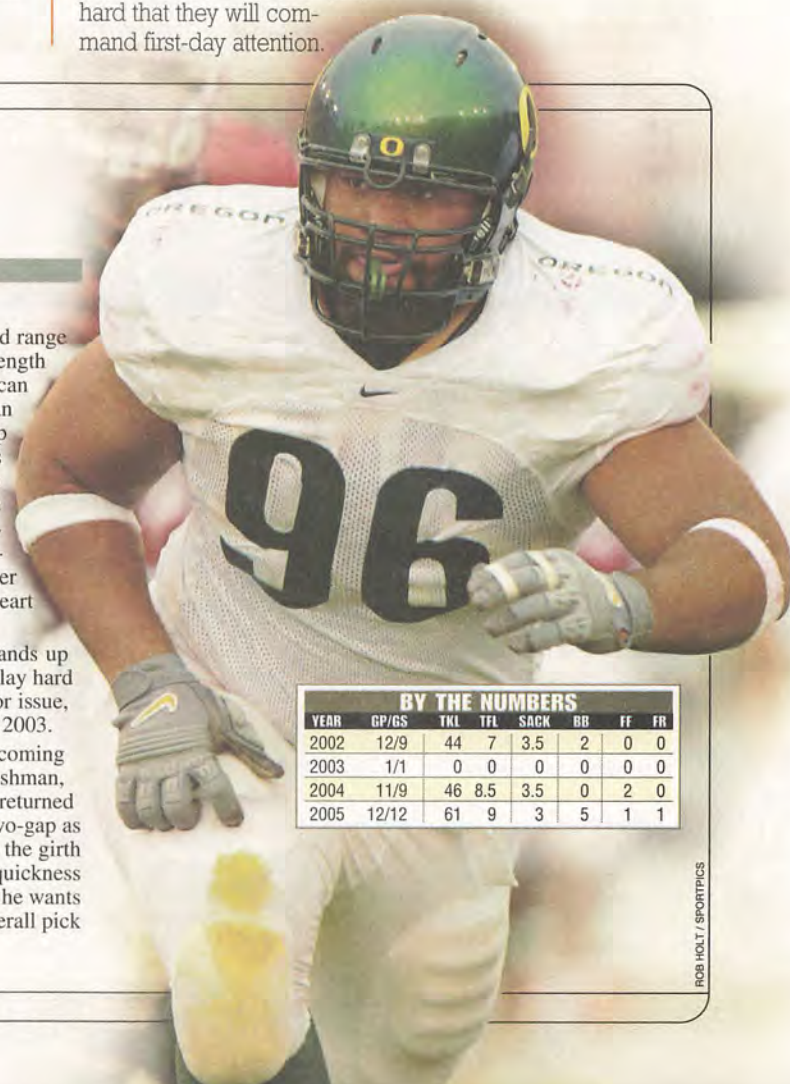
OREGON

HT: 6-5e WT: 340e 40-YARD: 5.0e

UPSIDE: Massive man with legit strength. Flashes rare agility and range you wouldn't expect to see in a man his size. Has natural brute strength with a 500-pound bench press. Can get penetration or two-gap and can fit in a "30" or "40" front. Rarely gets knocked backward and can tie up and occupy blockers. Good in-line tackler. Gets his hands up to disrupt the quarterback's vision and bat down balls. Size also is a factor on placekicks with six blocked kicks. Shows the power to swat aside blockers and reach the backfield. Feels where pressure is coming from and diagnoses the run quickly. Lines up as the personal protector on the punt team and plays in field-goal and short-yardage situations. Has handled adversity well after losing his father in a car crash in December 2003 and his mother to a sudden heart attack in January 2005.

DOWNSIDE: Effort is inconsistent. Loses leverage because he stands up out of his stance and plays too tall. Scouts would like to see him play hard every down and not take any plays off. Durability could be a minor issue, with a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered in the first game of 2003.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: One of the nation's most decorated players coming out of high school and lived up to his press clippings as a true freshman, earning a starting job by Week Five. Blew out his knee in 2003 and returned in '04 at less than full health. Was asked to occupy blockers and two-gap as a junior, taking away from what he does best — stop the run. Has the girth and base strength to fit as a 3-4 nose tackle and enough size and quickness to be terrorizing in a "40" front. Can be downright dominant when he wants to be and is bigger, quicker and stronger than Chiefs 2004 36th overall pick Junior Siavvi.



BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	12/9	44	7	3.5	2	0	0
2003	1/1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	11/9	46	8.5	3.5	0	2	0
2005	12/12	61	9	3	5	1	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

DT

#2

Brodrick BUNKLEY

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 6-2½ WT: 286 40-YARD: 5.05e



UPSIDE: Extremely strong upper body. Works inside off the snap and lives in the opposing backfield. All of his battles take place on the other side of the line of scrimmage. Has good power, punch and drive in his lower body. Shows good balance and can bend. Consistently splits double-teams and dominates when he is head-up. Supertough. Competed with an injured knee vs. Boston College in noticeable pain, despite being pulled from the game three times, and played his entire junior year on a bad foot that required surgery after the season. Football is important to him. Excellent weight-room worker. Can take tough coaching.

DOWNSIDE: Was not very mature early in his career and has some durability concerns, with a severe high ankle sprain in 2004 and torn ligaments in his left knee that required surgery in '02 and in high school. A little tightly wound and lacks great flexibility. Can do a better job of keeping blockers off his legs and using his hands to prevent and play off cut blocks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Played with more heart, desire and effort as a senior than he ever has before. Is stronger than Darnell Dockett, although not as quick, and more consistent than Travis Johnson. Not a true three-technique but can play there. Strength and athleticism is more suitable for nose tackle. Plays like Goliath and can control two gaps in the mold of 12-year NFL veteran Brentson Buckner and be very disruptive inside.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	8/0	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/2	38	8	1.5	2	1	1	
2004	10/7	12	3	1	0	0	0	0
2005	13/13	66	25	9	0	1	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

DT

#3

John McCARGO [JR.]

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

HT: 6-2e WT: 300e 40-YARD: 5.0e



UPSIDE: Three-year starter on one of the most talented defensive lines in football. Has good athletic ability and great chase speed to close. Comes off the ball hard and can be very disruptive. Plays on the other side of the line of scrimmage. Has thick, powerful legs. Good agility and balance and shows great lateral quickness to track down the run. Gives good effort in pursuit. Feels pressure and quickly plays off blocks. Shows a nice swim move and can press the pocket. Has a good motor and shows good play range. Very quick and gets penetration. Has quick, active hands and uses them well to shed and make plays down the line of scrimmage. Flashes ability to dominate. Humble and hard-working. Classroom smart.

DOWNSIDE: Can be undisciplined in his play and will take some foolish penalties. Too inconsistent. Can get stronger at the point of attack and is not super-stout, especially when his pads rise and he is looking for the ball. Was used in a rotation and can improve his stamina to play every down. Missed six games since late October after having surgery to repair a stress fracture in his left foot.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Best in a scheme where he is slanting and allowed to use his outstanding quickness and natural athletic ability to play in gaps. Could be a great fit as a three-technique in a penetrating, upfield attack. If he can learn to be more consistent and improve his conditioning, he could find his way to Honolulu.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2003	13/13	52	14	3	2	0	0	
2004	11/10	47	5	0	0	1	0	
2005	12/6	24	9	0.5	0	0	0	

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

DT

#4

Gabe WATSON

MICHIGAN

HT: 6-3½e WT: 335e 40-YARD: 5.2e



UPSIDE: Massive widebody. Can be dominant when he wants to be and flashes very good quickness and movement skills for his size. Shows ability to crush the pocket early in the game. Very naturally bull-strong. Can stack the point and clog the middle. Draws double-teams and requires extra attention. Engaged to be married. Has the strength of character to represent a team well off the field.

DOWNSIDE: Effort does not match his ability, and stamina has been an issue that he has struggled to overcome. Gets lazy. Takes too many plays off and is on the ground more than he should be. Does not show great instincts to locate the ball consistently. Will disappear at times, especially late in games. Limited hand use. Not a great worker and needs to be pushed. Has not put in the extra time to do what it takes to be great and has a lot of potential that may never be realized. Not very tough. Has had some trouble controlling his weight and has ballooned to as much as 366 pounds.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Fell into head coach Lloyd Carr's doghouse early as a senior and was benched in an attempt to motivate him. Has been downgraded by scouts for his inconsistency and questionable desire, but big men his size are not easy to find. A massive space-eater who can occupy blockers and plug the line of scrimmage for linebackers to flow freely. Best when used properly in a rotation but has the size, wide frame and natural girth to anchor a 3-4 defense at the nose. Has handled a lot of adversity in his life.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	8/0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/0	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
2004	12/11	37	7	2	0	1	0	
2005	12/8	40	6.5	2	0	0	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND



GABE WATSON | MICHIGAN

DAVID DUNNICK / SPORTSPICS

DT

#5

Claude
WROTEN

LSU

HT: 6-1½ WT: 295 40-YARD: 5.09



UPSIDE: Shows an outstanding short-area burst to close. Naturally strong and athletic and can beat blockers with power, speed and leverage. Works hard. Has natural pass-rush ability and is an active inside presence. Fits through tight spaces and can make his shoulders narrow and fight through cracks to get penetration. Can play on the edge. Quickly sniffs out where the ball is going. Does a good job of keeping defenders off his body. Good agility and lateral quickness to fend off blockers and play the run. Has quick hands to work free and shows good burst to clear once on an edge. Uses his hands well. Plays with good pad level and gets underneath the pads of blockers.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great size. Not very smart. Was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute on Jan. 4, following the season, after being clocked going 77 mph in a 65 mph zone and was kicked out of the Senior Bowl. Cannot man two gaps or hold the point easily vs. double-teams. Too easily influenced. Best when responsibilities are kept simple and he is turned loose.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: An explosive three-technique who compares favorably to Bears 2004 first-rounder Tommie Harris. Despite recent arrest, Wroten has not had any prior arrests and is believed to be a good person who got caught up with the wrong people. Graded out as a first-round talent prior to the incident, and draft stock may not be affected much if he interviews well with teams.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	12/9	44	12	6	0	2	0	
2005	13/12	49	10.5	6	3	0	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

DT

#6

Jonathan
LEWIS

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-0½ WT: 304 40-YARD: 5.2e



UPSIDE: Quick off the ball and gets penetration. Shows a nice swim move and uses his hands well to work around and disengage from blockers. Shows a nice burst and can be disruptive in the backfield. Very solid production for an interior defender. Locates the ball quickly and usually gets a good jump and anticipates where it is going. Stays on his feet and works hard to the ball. Can make tackles outside the box and close on the quarterback. Has been very durable and has not missed any time due to injuries, although he did suffer one at the Senior Bowl.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal height and has a sloppy build. Plays too tall and straight-legged and can get manhandled when he is aligned straight up. Not very strong

at the point of attack and struggles to anchor down and hold his ground. Gets beaten easily by double teams and gets washed out of plays. Lacks strength in his lower body. Only makes plays vs. lesser competition. Too inconsistent and plays in spurts. Not very physical. Plays too soft. Suffered groin injury at Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Made an immediate impact upon arriving as a true freshman and has been a reliable three-year starter for the Hokies. Best in a scheme where he is playing on a shade and shooting gaps, and will be drafted higher by teams using one-gap defenses, like the Eagles or Bears. Lack of size will push him down draft boards for teams running 3-4 defenses.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	14/3	56	7	2	0	0	0	
2003	13/13	69	7	4	1	2	0	
2004	13/13	40	11	5	1	1	2	
2005	13/13	38	7.5	4.5	3	0	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

DT

#7

Rodrique
WRIGHT

TEXAS

HT: 6-4½ WT: 306 40-YARD: 5.0e



UPSIDE: Looks the part with a lean, athletic build for a 300-pounder and huge, meatcleaver hands. Big-boned. Excellent size and straight-line speed. Has long arms and good upper-body strength. Runs well for a tackle and is quick off the ball. Will show flashes of pass-rush ability. Has NFL bloodlines. Shows the range to make tackles outside the box.

DOWNSIDE: Too stiff and robotic and doesn't easily unlock and drop his hips to roll them. Plays small and does not generate much push in the pocket. Not explosive. Struggles vs. the double-team and gets run out of plays. Underachiever.

Tends to play with a narrow base and with his pads too high. Stands up at times and, as a result, loses leverage and lacks play strength. Late to disengage. Average lateral movement. Effort is inconsistent. Work ethic is not exceptional. Makes too many excuses and lacks mental toughness. Not a warrior.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Best season came as a sophomore. Workout numbers and career production in a big-time program will force teams to consider him fairly early. Similar to Chiefs 2002 second-round pick Eddie Freeman, whose inability to sink his hips has limited his production in the pros. Reminds scouts some of 2004 Raiders rookie free agent Tommy Kelly, a classic overachiever who only played hard at Mississippi State when he wanted to but has developed into a solid starter in a relaxed environment in the pros.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	13/9	65	13	4.5	0	1	0	
2003	13/13	80	12	7.5	3	3	0	
2004	11/10	36	3	1	2	1	0	
2005	13/13	46	13	4.5	3	1	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

DT

#8

Orien
HARRIS

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-3 WT: 302 40-YARD: 5.2e



UPSIDE: Flashes some power and great strength in his hands. When he comes off the ball low with good pad level, he can look dominant. Can toss aside blockers with one hand. Can anchor and hold his ground vs. the double-team. Has thick ankles and wrists. Shows good balance to stay on his feet. Has NFL pedigree — his brother Kwame was a first-round pick of the 49ers in 2003.

DOWNSIDE: Motor does not always go and will take off too many downs. Not quick off the ball and does not get a lot of penetration. Does not have great size or work habits and is probably more compact than most teams would like. Has had elbow, knee and shoulder injuries.

Gets knocked around too much and gets his shoulders turned. Not a glass-eater. Needs to play more disciplined and understand his role. Tries to make plays he shouldn't and gets out of position. Lacks great range to flatten and make plays outside the box.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A three-year starter in an elite program, Harris has the quickness and anchor strength to become an NFL starter. However, the same questions that lingered about his brother Kwame's toughness and desire have been raised with Orien and scouts wonder how great he truly wants to be. Although he has shown he could man two gaps, his size and quickness make him better-suited to play on a shade in the pros.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR	
2002	13/0	36	1	1	0	0	1	
2003	11/10	39	8	4	0	0	0	
2004	12/12	55	12	1.5	0	0	0	
2005	12/12	40	11	3.5	0	0	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

THE

PFW

PROTOTYPE

DT

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in DT prospects

There are generally two types of defensive tackles teams seek — a quick penetrator responsible for a single gap, or a massive run-clogger who is responsible for two gaps and must be able to stack the point and come off blocks on either side. Two-gap tackles are employed by 3-4 defenses where linebackers are asked to fill and scrape and make most plays.

TOUGHNESS

The trademark of a banger who battles in tight quarters for an entire game. The best to have played the game — “Mean Joe” Greene, Dan Hampton, Randy White — had a nasty temperament between the white lines and played with a mean streak. They were aggressive and played the game violently, the way warriors must fight in close combat.

CORE STRENGTH

To maintain position in running lanes and neutralize blocks, defensive tackles must have the core strength and stoutness to hold their ground, stay on their feet, maintain leverage and avoid being collapsed vs. the run, especially in two-gap schemes. The best two-gappers in the league today, such as Kris Jenkins, can split the double-team.

QUICKNESS

Defensive tackles are asked to do a lot of slanting and twisting to shoot gaps and create penetration, especially in single-gap schemes. They must be able to feel pressure, locate the ball and read plays on the move. A great defensive lineman like John Randle never gave up on a play and played every down like it was his last. Quick reactions and quick hands allow defensive tackles to flatten down the line of scrimmage, fight through trash and clear their feet through traffic to make plays.

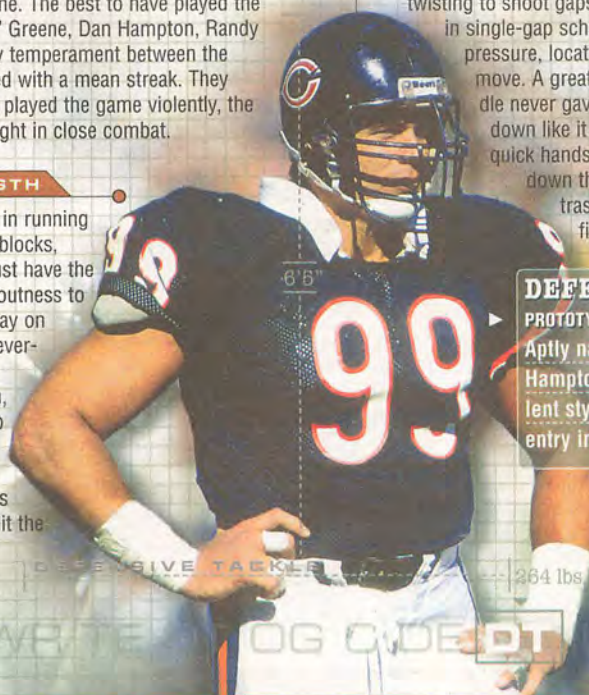
— N.N.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

PROTOTYPE: Dan Hampton

Aptly named “Danimal,”

Hampton’s toughness and violent style of play earned him entry into the Hall of Fame.



JOHN McDONOUGH / ICON SM

DT

#9

Kyle

WILLIAMS

LSU

HT: 6-1 WT: 295 40-YARD: 5.24



UPSIDE: Quick off the ball. Explosive and naturally strong. Very determined competitor who imposes his will on defenders. Plays to the whistle. Very tough. Extremely strong in the upper and lower body. Excellent motor. Plays above his ability. Hustles and chases and makes a lot of tackles in pursuit through sheer effort and determination. Is quick to find the ball. Vocal leader. Plays through pain. Outstanding work habits. Married.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal size. Has short arms and could have a more difficult time disengaging from NFL blockers. Not a great athlete. Too straight-linish and does not look natural changing direction. Overly muscular and rigid in his movement. Will rise out of his stance and play too tall. Can be late to locate and react to the ball when he is tied up. Plays out of control. Not a creative pass rusher. Gives up too much of his chest and does not show many moves to come free. Hand use could improve.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Does not have great measurables but plays much bigger than his size and warrants comparisons to Vikings 2000 first-round pick and current Buccaneers DT Chris Hovan. A rolling ball of butcher knives, he will slap and push around anything in his way to get in the backfield. A throwback, old-school tough guy who needs to play in a penetrating, upfield attack where he is on the move.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD ROUND

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	7/0	7	0	2	0	0	0
2003	14/8	41	6.5	4	0	0	0
2004	12/12	57	12	6	2	1	1
2005	13/13	61	7.5	4.5	5	0	0

DT

#10

Dusty

DVORACEK

OKLAHOMA

HT: 6-2 1/2 WT: 300e 40-YARD: 4.9e



UPSIDE: Has a thick, country-boy build and is tougher than nails. Very, very strong. Plays with great energy and gives great effort. Can bull-rush and plant blockers in the backfield. Keeps working his feet and can collapse the pocket. Physical and aggressive. Very instinctive and quickly locates the ball. Plays with power and good hip roll. Will play hurt. Has never missed any time because of injuries.

DOWNSIDE: Has had off-field, alcohol-related incidents that were settled out of court. Is used in a rotation and is not a full-time player. Has had a number of injuries, including a labrum tear in his right shoulder, a turf toe injury and a torn bicep muscle. Only average athletic ability. Too straight-linish. Not the most explosive and not gifted as a pass rusher. Can be slow to redirect.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Comes from an affluent background and has taken some luxuries for granted. However, he is smart, hard-working and very competitive. He underwent anger-management and alcohol-related counseling to regain membership on the team. Dvoracek commanded more attention from opponents as a senior with Oklahoma's ends moving on to the NFL and still made a presence in opponents' backfield and was very productive. The type of warrior you want in a foxhole with you in battle, Dvoracek would be best in a scheme that plays angles and calls for a lot of slants and stunts to create penetration.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2001	9/0	22	4	2	0	0	0
2002	12/1	25	5	3	0	0	1
2003	14/14	40	16	7	1	0	0
2004	2/2	5	1	0	1	0	1
2005	12/9	44	18	4	0	0	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

PASS-RUSH MOVES

IT TAKES A WHILE FOR TACKLES SUCH AS FSU'S BRODRICK BUNKLEY TO BECOME PRO PASS RUSHERS

By Eric Edholm

Among the top 45 sack leaders for defensive linemen in the NFL last season, only five were full-time D-tackles. Falcons DT Rod Coleman led that group with 10½ sacks (12 defensive ends had more sacks than Coleman) and Seahawks Rocky Bernard had 8½, but the other three interior guys had only 5½ apiece.

Clearly, most teams count on their pass rushing from the outside spots — from the ends and linebackers. Developing pass-rush moves for an inside player is a more technical science than it is for ends and linebackers, where speed can make up for a lack of proper hand placement, footwork or technique.

Pass rushing from the inside is not only trickier to showcase in the NFL, but it's also a tougher skill for NFL scouts to evaluate.

"You may see a guy getting eight, nine sacks (from the DT position) at a high-level (college) program, but that doesn't mean he'll get eight or 10 a season in the pros," an NFC college scout said. "How will they handle a 320-pound guard? How will they react to being shocked that first time?"

"They are going to see double (teams). You have to see how refined their (pass-rush) moves are and whether they have countermoves, because the O-linemen they'll see in the pros will be much more seasoned and able to stop their initial moves."

Bears DL coach Don Johnson, who spent 10 years coaching D-linemen at UCLA and Nevada before coming to the NFL prior to the 2005 season, says it takes first-year players a while to adjust to rushing the QB in the pros because of the difference in the pro passing game.

"I think the most difficult thing is (that) the ball is out so quick at this level," Johnson said. "They're

taking (deeper) drops in the NFL, whereas in college you get a lot of three- and five-step drops. So time and distance are factors."

But all adjustments aside, Giants GM Ernie Accorsi believes that there are two critical assets an inside rusher must possess to be successful getting to the quarterback.

"Quickness and instincts. That's it. There's a knack to it. You have to have a feel for pass rushing, especially if you're playing inside, but if you don't have quickness you're not going to have much of a chance," he said.

Take a look at this year's top crop of inside pass rushers. Though the NFC scout says there's no one exceptional pass-rush prospect in the group, which includes Florida State's Brodrick Bunkley, Oklahoma's Dusty Dvoracek and LSU's DT pair, Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten, it's a decent group with potential. Still, he had last year's draft class of DTs rated as a better group of pass rushers heading into the Combine evaluations.

In some order, Travis Johnson, Mike Patterson, Shaun Cody and Jonathan Babineaux were considered four of the premier interior pass rushers in

the 2005 draft. Combined as rookies they totaled 6½ sacks in 63 games played.

Take Cowboys NT La'Roi Glover, who has 71½ sacks in his 10-year career and once had 17 in a season. He started slowly as a rookie with the Raiders, but things changed once he was released. He signed with the Saints before his second season and had 6½ sacks, going on to average 10 in his five seasons in New Orleans.

"To be the ultimate pass rusher, I think you have to compete in this league for a couple of years," Johnson said. "There are just so many things that the skilled offensive linemen do to negate your moves. And just the size of the offensive linemen ... (if) you're going to bull-rush someone who's 320 pounds and you're 290, you've got some issues unless you catch them just right."

Chances are, this year's rookie crop will catch them wrong more often than not when they get to the NFL.

FAST FACT: ONLY FIVE OF THE TOP 45 DL SACK LEADERS IN THE NFL IN 2005 WERE TACKLES

#11

Babatunde OSHINOWO
STANFORD

HT: 6-1½ WT: 302 40-YARD: 5.25e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	11/1	23	6	3	1	0	0
2003	11/11	25	8	4	1	0	1
2004	11/11	41	5.5	3.5	0	0	0
2005	11/11	54	10.5	4.5	3	1	2

UPSIDE: Good athlete for his size. Can win battles early and overpower blockers if he gets an edge. Has a firm anchor and can hold blockers up at the line of scrimmage and keep his linebackers unencumbered.

DOWNSIDE: Not explosive. Scouts question if he is too smart, cerebral and nice for an interior battler. Should make more plays than he does. Once his initial move is stopped, he struggles to disengage and stays blocked. Stands straight up out of his stance. Not very disruptive and doesn't live in the backfield. Wears down late in games and runs out of gas. Stamina has been an issue.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Had his best season as a senior after dropping 10 pounds, despite being slowed by ankle injuries sustained vs. Navy in season opener. Best on the shade and likes to work the edges more than he likes to battle. Will have value as a nose tackle in a 3-4 "D" and could be drafted in the second round after a solid Senior Bowl week and impressive interviews.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

#12

Montavious STANLEY
LOUISVILLE

HT: 6-2½ WT: 321 40-YARD: 5.06e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	11/0	16	2.5	0	0	0	1
2003	13/13	37	13	3	0	2	2
2004	12/10	30	4.5	4	2	2	2
2005	11/11	48	10	5.5	1	1	3

UPSIDE: Big, strong and powerful. Has a thick trunk and natural strength to hold the point and anchor vs. the run. Can toss blockers aside and push the pocket. Can two-gap and keep blockers from reaching the second level. Square, wide and well-built. Makes plays laterally and flushed a lot of plays to Elvis Dumervil. Played with a sprained left shoulder most of the year.

DOWNSIDE: Tore his left pectoral late in the season and missed the Gator Bowl to recuperate. Doesn't make many plays on his own. Tires and wears down late in games. Lacks mental toughness. Not very smart and could struggle to learn.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Lost 15 pounds in the offseason and pleasantly surprised scouts early in the season with his production. Physically, Stanley has the size, strength and power that teams like inside. However, he needs a positive, encouraging position coach and strong veteran leadership around him to maximize his potential.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

#13

Johnny JOLLY
TEXAS A&M

HT: 6-2½ WT: 310 40-YARD: 5.1e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	12/0	26	1	0	0	1	1
2003	12/12	94	12	2	8	0	0
2004	12/12	45	3	0	6	1	0
2005	11/11	64	8	3	1	0	0

UPSIDE: Fires off the ball and makes plays behind the line of scrimmage. Very active off the snap and has quick hands that he uses to shed and rip past blockers. Plays physically. Very strong. Plays with nice pad level. Keeps fighting to the ball. Plays with great effort and intensity. Can defeat blockers and re-establish the line of scrimmage. Emotional leader.

DOWNSIDE: Plays too tall when he tires and will take himself out of games to rest. Does not consistently give great effort. Shows some stiffness in his hips. Comes from an underprivileged area in Houston, and character has come into question. Not very smart. Doesn't make many tackles outside the box.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Plays with passion and brings a lot of energy and leadership to a defensive front. Has enough size and strength to man two gaps and the quickness and explosion to disrupt in a penetrating, upfield attack.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

#14

Jesse MAHELONA
TENNESSEE

HT: 6-0 WT: 311 40-YARD: 5.05e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	13/11	42	18.5	5	0	0	0
2005	11/7	35	8	2	0	1	0

UPSIDE: Gets a good jump off the ball and is quick upfield. Makes a lot of plays behind the line of scrimmage and led the SEC in TFLs in '04. Looks like he can't be blocked some games. Good lateral quickness. Shows a nice short-area burst and can work an edge and get penetration. Flashes a mean streak. Great competitor. Very loyal.

DOWNSIDE: Doesn't have prototypical size, with short legs. Not very instinctive. Gets knocked off-balance too much and stuck on blocks. On the ground a lot. Plays small for a 300-pounder and really struggled vs. Georgia OG Max Jean-Gilles. Tires too easily and runs out of gas. Gets abused by double-teams and can't hold ground.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not a fit for every team and can't be a nose tackle or hold two gaps, but could excel as a one- or three-technique in an attacking, upfield scheme like the Colts', Bears' or Bucs'. Some scouts like him more than 49ers 2003 second-round pick Anthony Adams.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

#15

Tony McDANIEL [JR.]
TENNESSEE

HT: 6-6e WT: 315e 40-YARD: 5.1e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	BB	FF	FR
2003	11/0	7	1	0	1	0	0
2004	13/1	13	2	1	2	0	0
2005	9/0	13	3	0	3	0	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has excellent size and really looks the part. Big, strong and powerful man who can push the pocket. Can anchor and walk back guards easily. One of the most physically impressive talents in the draft and can be nasty and dominant.

DOWNSIDE: Very immature. Will require a lot of attention. Was charged with felony aggravated assault after he hit a student in the face during a pickup basketball game, requiring that a metal plate be inserted to repair four broken bones in the victim's face. Was a rotational player. Too inconsistent. Lacks pass-rush technique.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A DL coach who goes to work him out could fall in love with his potential. Fits the same mold of John Henderson and Albert Haynesworth and is every bit as immature. Flashes first-round ability and could fit into the back end of the first day, but is a very high-risk, high-upside player with limited career production as a wave player.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

16. **KEDRIC GOLSTON** | Georgia
Quick, penetrating, injury-prone one-gap DT.

17. **McKINLEY BOYKIN** | Mississippi
Explosive, underachieving three-technique.

18. **MARCUS GREEN** | Ohio State
Energy and effort compensate for lack of size.

19. **DOMATA PEKO** | Michigan State
Juko transfer shined in first year as starter.

20. **MANAIA BROWN** | BYU
Underachiever with versatility as end or tackle.

21. **STEVE WILLIAMS** | NW Missouri State
Stood out at Las Vegas Classic at full health.

22. **TOMMY JACKSON** | Auburn
Stocky, inside plugger who plays stout for size.

23. **ALVIN SMITH** | Oregon State
Squatty space-eater who can stack the point.

24. **TITUS ADAMS** | Nebraska
Has potential if he could ever find consistency.

25. **SIR HENRY ANDERSON** | Oregon State
Big, round-bodied, two-down, lane clogger.

ILB PROSPECTS

Inside linebackers, as important as they are to a defense, are not often drafted in the first round, and in the past five years, there has only been one taken there. This year, that one could be Maryland's D'Qwell Jackson, who has the toughness, instincts and leadership qualities to step into a starting lineup right away for many teams.

The problem a lot of teams have with Jackson is that he is very undersized, and with players growing increasingly bigger and injuries mounting, it is an issue that should not be taken lightly. However, Jonathan Vilma and Ray Lewis are not much different in stature, and when teams really take a hard look around the league, many inside 'backers, from Zach Thomas to London Fletcher, are not thumpers.

Iowa's Abdul Hodge also lacks desirable size and will likely slip in the draft because of it, but like Jackson, he is a great football player who will earn a starting job in the pros. Although much less experienced as only a one-year

starter, San Diego State's Freddie Keiaho will find himself in the same situation entering the pros, hellbent on proving wrong everyone who passed on him because he was too small. What Keiaho lacks in size he makes up for in intelligence.

Intelligence and versatility are strengths of Virginia junior Kai Parham and Georgia Tech's Gerris Wilkinson, and they are better-equipped to play a big man's game with good size and size potential.

The second day includes a lot of 'backers who are either great athletes with limited instincts or limited athletes with great instincts. Miami (Fla.)'s Leon Williams and Iowa State's Tim Dobbins fit the first category with solid athletic ability, while Northwestern's Tim McGarigle and Oregon State's Trent Bray fit the second, playing like coaches on the field. Their production, as well as that of Arizona State's Dale Robinson, will warrant some attention.

2006 CLASS GRADE:

C

ILB
#1
D'Qwell JACKSON
MARYLAND
HT: 6-0 1/2 | WT: 227 | 40-YARD: 4.6e

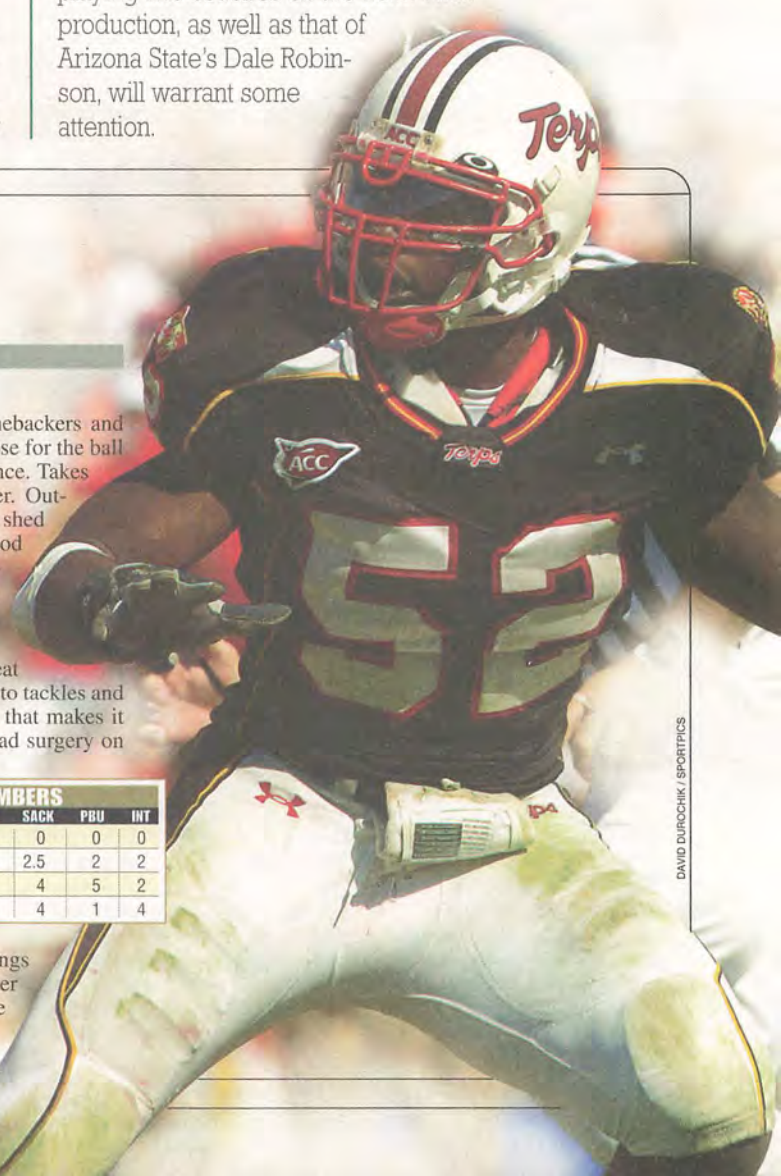
UPSIDE: Has the football temperament scouts seek in middle linebackers and brings a commanding presence to the field. Very instinctive. Has a nose for the ball and very quickly keys and diagnoses. Outstanding football intelligence. Takes sharp angles. Very tough. Plays with intent. Solid, wrap-up tackler. Outstanding production — three-time team-leading tackler. Is quick to shed and uses his flapper to separate. Stays on his feet and plays with good pad level. Moves well laterally. Plays hard. Intense competitor. Football is very important to him. Gets good depth in zone drops and makes plays on the ball.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized with less-than-ideal height. Lacks bulk. A little high-cut and loses some transition in man coverage. Lacks great burst and range to make plays to the sideline. Does not roll his hips into tackles and explode on contact. Not a great take-on guy. Shows some tightness that makes it difficult to fit through cracks on blitzes. Has small hands and has had surgery on his right wrist and bursitis in his left elbow.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was used to scrape and plug more than play downhill and was very effective at what he was asked to do. Middle linebackers typically don't fit into the first round unless they can play all three positions and don't have to leave the field on any down. Not as big as but more instinctive than Vikings 2003 second-rounder (No. 40 overall) E.J. Henderson and has better cover skills. Can fit on the weak side or in the middle and would be best-suited in a scheme where he is protected.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	14/0	51	3	0	0	0
2003	13/13	132	7.5	2.5	2	2
2004	11/11	123	7	4	5	2
2005	10/10	137	6.5	4	1	4

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



DAVID DROCHIK / SPORTPICS

#2

Abdul HODGE

IOWA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 231 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Like a magnet to the ball and makes a lot of plays on instinct. Good football intelligence. Compactly built and naturally strong with long arms to keep separation. Has a strong upper body. Plays low to the ground with natural leverage and good pad level. Keeps his shoulders squared to the line and shuffles to the ball. Plays fundamental football. Likes to hit and will strike anyone who enters his zone. Natural leader. Outstanding worker. Passionate about the game and plays with emotion.

DOWNSIDE: Undersized and is shorter than scouts would like.

Shows some stiffness in his lower body and is not very fluid changing direction or getting depth in coverage. Doesn't show natural bend and thrust to hit and run through gaps. Uses upper body to muscle blockers too much instead of springing on contact. Gets caught up in traffic and stuck on blocks. Overly aggressive and too often overruns the play and is not a great open-field tackler. Could struggle manning up with some backs in the pros.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Shows enough speed, awareness and instincts to chase to the outside, but could fit best inside as a "Mike" linebacker in a 3-4 scheme, where he could key on playing inside the tackle box and not be exposed in space. Lack of size will keep him out of the first round, but he will not slide out of the first day.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/0	38	1	1	0	0
2003	13/13	141	10	2	3	0
2004	12/12	116	5	3	4	0
2005	12/12	158	11	1	0	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#3

Gerris WILKINSON

GEORGIA TECH

HT: 6-3¼ WT: 238 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Smart. Assignment-sound. Very well-coached. Gets players lined up and makes checks. Three-year starter. Finds the ball quickly and gets where he is supposed to be. Good movement skills and covers a lot of ground. Can slip and avoid and close to the ball. Nice lateral quickness. Solid, wrap-up tackler. Versatile and has played inside and outside. Has long arms to jam tight ends and keep separation and can match up with them in coverage. Very durable and has not missed any time to injury. Learns quickly and takes the game seriously. Plays hard and gives great effort in pursuit. Can play with his hand on the ground and come off the edge.

DOWNSIDE: Not very explosive. Does not show an extra

gear or burst to track down backs. Not a thumper and does not play downhill. Does not have the great instincts or natural leadership qualities scouts seek inside or quite the sideline-to-sideline range they desire outside. Not a great zone defender and has a tendency to rise out of his pedal, play tall and take time to transition out of his breaks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Makes a lot of tackles on speed and is best on the move. Versatility and ability to contribute on special teams will add to his value. A cross between Daryl Smith and Keyaron Fox, Wilkinson has intriguing athletic ability that could push up his draft stock.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/0	2	0	0	0	0
2003	13/13	47	12	4	2	0
2004	12/12	119	17	4.5	2	1
2005	12/12	85	9	4	2	2

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

#4

Kai PARHAM [JR.]

VIRGINIA

HT: 6-3e WT: 250e 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Three-year starter. Makes a lot of plays behind the line of scrimmage and shows the ability to rush the passer outside.

Has natural strength and really looks the part. Uses his long arms to keep separation from blockers. Flows to the ball. Solid, reliable tackler. Is starting to develop a feel for pass coverage and can come out of his breaks and close. Likes to work out. Smart. Graduated a semester early after three-and-a-half years.

DOWNSIDE: Too stiff in his hips. Does not play with great bend. Slew-footed — feet point outward. Does not look natural in coverage or get great depth

in his drops. Looks like he thinks too much and shows hesitation in his play. Slow to find the ball at times. Struggles to come off blocks. Not

a great inside blitzer and gives up too much surface area, letting blockers into his body. Looks a little mechanical dropping into coverage. Has suffered from a lingering back injury.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has been overshadowed by Darryl Blackstock and Ahmad Brooks and has not received as much credit as he deserves for the amount of plays he makes. Has made strides every year and became the rock of the defense as a junior. Could play inside or project outside in a 3-4 defense. Although he does not have great speed and is not nearly as athletic as Joey Porter, he shows some similarities to him and has a good concept of the 3-4 defense. Could be an ideal fit in Pittsburgh, New England or Cleveland.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2003	13/9	89	7	1	2	0
2004	12/11	80	11	2	0	0
2005	12/12	103	14.5	8.5	1	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

#5

Freddy KEIAHO

SAN DIEGO STATE

HT: 5-10e WT: 235e 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Smart as a whip and knows how to play every LB position. Gets teammates lined up properly and understands how the defense fits together. Reads formations and knows where the ball is going almost before it is snapped. A very positive person with great desire. Supercompetitive. Naturally instinctive and covers a lot more ground than scouts feel he should be able to. Good balance and can stay on his feet through traffic. Plays 100 m.p.h. and plays aggressively.

DOWNSIDE: Does not look the part. Is shorter than scouts would like and does not have long arms to keep blockers off his body. Does not have a great 40 time. Shows some tightness in his hips in coverage. Only a one-year starter. Too small to be a take-on-and-fill linebacker. Needs to be protected from blockers or will get overmatched and engulfed.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Quickly put himself on the map as a first-year starter after seeming to make every tackle vs. Ohio State in the season opener. Compensates for lack of size with great instincts and intelligence. Not as consistently productive over four years as Cowboys 1999 third-round pick Dat Nguyen was at Texas A&M, but Keiaho is a similar type of player and could start in a scheme predicated on speed, like the ones used by the Colts, Buccaneers and Bears. Will make plays if used correctly.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	11/0	9	0	0	0	0
2003	8/0	7	1	1	0	0
2004	11/0	25	4.5	0.5	0	0
2005	11/11	113	11.5	1	4	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

ILB

6 Tim DOBBINS

IOWA STATE

HT: 6-1 1/4 WT: 241 40-YARD: 4.69



UPSIDE: Very strong with a sculpted physique. Likes to hit. Has good straight-line speed and nice range. Plays hard and gives great effort to hustle and chase in pursuit. Plays with reckless abandon and will strike and try to punish ballcarriers. Can make his way through trash and track down runners to the sideline. Reads the run quickly and flows well to the ball. Times blitzes nicely. Effort and desire are outstanding. Is married with two children and driven to succeed.

DOWNSIDE: Average instincts. Late to find the ball. Too stiff and straight-linish, cannot easily change direction and will struggle to break down in space. Does not play downhill and take on blocks like scouts expect of a "Mike" linebacker. Not a great athlete. Will overrun some plays. Could struggle sticking with NFL backs one-on-one. Needs some extra reps to learn. Does not have a great feel for coverage and will let some crossing routes pass his face.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Comes from a rough background and has had to overcome a lot in his life. Will still have some obstacles to overcome in the pros but has the physical tools to develop. Is a run-down inside 'backer. A tough guy with good intangibles who will also help on special teams. Much more effective going forward than when playing in space.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—
2004	12/12	61	3.5	0.5	2	2
2005	12/12	103	5	1	4	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

ILB

7 Leon WILLIAMS

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-3e WT: 250e 40-YARD: 4.65e



UPSIDE: Has great size and really looks the part with good muscular development. Shows the ability to find the ball. Can come downhill and fill fast. Strong in run support and can play off and run around blocks. Does a decent job shedding and getting rid of blockers. Very good speed to chase and make plays to the sideline. Plays on every special team and gives great effort.

DOWNSIDE: Plays too tall and needs to do a better job of sinking his hips. Not a true downhill plugger and can play with better pad level when taking on lead blocks. Intelligence is an issue, and he will struggle if he is given all the responsibilities typically assigned to a "Mike" linebacker. Can get confused and play too tentatively. Looks lost at times and doesn't play with

a sense of urgency. Has some difficulty handling zone concepts and getting deep enough in his drops. Will often come off the field on passing downs. Does not make the calls or handle checks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Leaky "Mike" linebacker who will need a savvy veteran presence alongside him to get him lined up. At the worst, he could be a solid special-teams player, but has all the physical ability to become a starter in a simple scheme if he is not asked to make calls or do too much. Stood out at the Las Vegas All-American Classic and was easily one of the most gifted athletes there. If Williams is brought along slowly and surrounded by the right players, he could turn out to be a fine pro.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	12/0	14	0	0	0	0
2003	13/0	22	1	0	1	0
2004	10/5	56	8	2.5	1	0
2005	12/1	57	3	0	3	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

ILB

8 Dale ROBINSON

ARIZONA STATE

HT: 6-0 WT: 230 40-YARD: 4.82



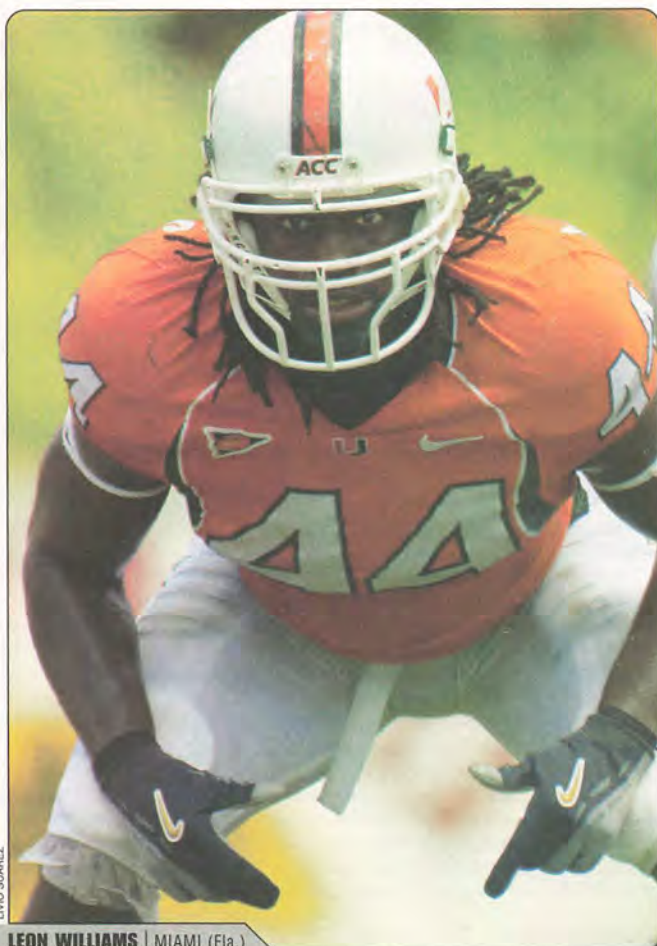
UPSIDE: Plays faster than he times when he sees it and is very active. Shows up all over the field. Can slip and avoid blocks and has a strong upper body to fight off blockers. Athletic enough to recover even after he gets out of position. Will battle and fight to the ball. Very productive and led the Pac-10 in tackles. Gives great effort and is a secure tackler. Can find his way into the backfield on blitzes and create pressure.

DOWNSIDE: Too undersized. Gets engulfed and washed out of plays. Not a consistent take-on guy. Loses strength at the point of attack because he plays too upright. Makes too many mental mistakes. Gives up on plays. Not as vocal as scouts would like. Not very instinctive and loses track of the ball at times. Too inconsistent and has too much indecision in his play. Doesn't trust his instincts. Lacks awareness vs. the pass and doesn't get a lot of depth in his drops or break fast on the ball. Hot-and-cold player. A little stiff and slow to change direction. Can get hung up in traffic and lose awareness. Takes some bad angles. Can do a better job using his hands. Not an explosive hitter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Needs some space to operate, and not all scouts are convinced his future is inside in the pros, but his production has been too great to ignore. His ticket could come on special teams.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—
2004	12/12	93	13	4.5	0	1
2005	12/11	115	15	4	0	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND



LEON WILLIAMS | MIAMI (Fla.)

THE PFW PROTOTYPE ILB

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in ILB prospects

The single most important trait in a linebacker is **instinct**, often a product of hard work, discipline and extensive film study. Instincts put linebackers in position to make plays. They must have the **balance** and short-area burst to finish plays. The greatest linebackers of all time had a commanding **presence**, elevating the play of their teammates, and were **great tacklers**.

INSTINCTS

George Halas said the closer you are to the ball, the smarter you must be. MLBs must see the whole field, recognize personnel groupings and make calls and adjustments. Great ones like the bug-eyed Mike Singletary were so alert that they were able to read their keys, diagnose plays and get moving before the snap. Zach Thomas watches so much tape that he is able to make a lot of plays on instinct. Tedy Bruschi fits gaps with the correct shoulder, fills properly and is very opportunistic because of his instincts.

SECURE TACKLING

Great linebackers keep their shoulders squared, hit on the rise, snap their hips, wrap up and drive through the ballcarrier. They take good angles, get downhill fast and invoke fear in ballcarriers. Dick Butkus was a fierce tackler who would hunt down running backs and inflict pain on the opposition. Good linebackers rarely miss and find a way to make a tackle, even if every one is not perfect form.

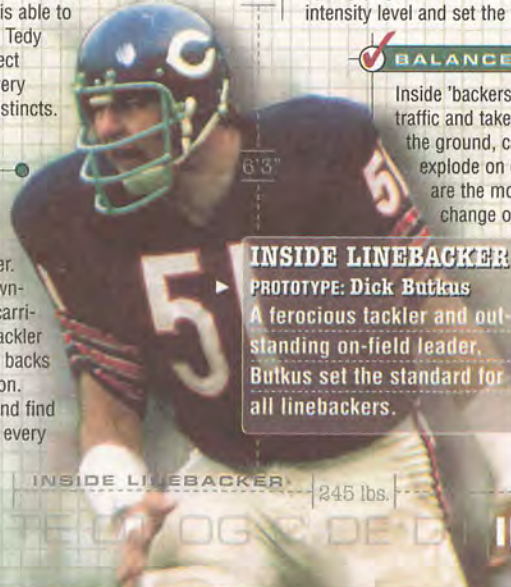
ON-FIELD LEADERSHIP

Ray Lewis has a commanding presence on the field. When he speaks in the huddle, all eyes are fixated on him. When he rallies the troops on third down or a crucial situation, they respond because they fear the consequences of letting him down. Middle linebackers need to be like another coach on the field, able to line up any player and know all assignments. The great ones raise the intensity level and set the tempo of the defense.

BALANCE

Inside 'backers must fight their way through a lot of traffic and take on big blockers. Those who play low to the ground, can bend their knees, unlock their hips, explode on contact, disengage and stay on their feet are the most productive. Quickness, agility and change of direction are a product of balance. To play inside, linebackers do not need to be fast — Bryan Cox ran a 5.0-flat 40 — but they do need to be able to accelerate quickly, show a short burst and break down to tackle. Football is a game of leverage, and the low man wins. It is why Sam Mills, at 5-9, was so hard to block, and why a host of linebackers continue to thrive in the league under 6 feet.

—N.N.



INSIDE LINEBACKER PROTOTYPE: Dick Butkus
A ferocious tackler and outstanding on-field leader, Butkus set the standard for all linebackers.

INSIDE LINEBACKER 245 lbs.

QB RB WR TE OL OG DE D ILB OLB CB S

MALCOLM EDMONS / LUS PRESSWIRE

ILB
#9 **Stephen TULLOCH [JR.]**
NORTH CAROLINA ST.
HT: 5-10e WT: 230e 40-YARD: 4.7e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2003	12/0	65	5	0	2	0
2004	11/6	75	14	0	0	0
2005	12/12	145	16.5	6	3	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Very active. Gives great effort. Has good instincts and gets downhill fast. Very feisty and competitive and is always around the ball. Athletic and shows an above-average burst. Fights through blocks and will strike and separate. Has very good production and makes a lot of plays in the backfield. Plays hard and sets the tone for the defense.

DOWNSIDE: Is shorter than scouts would like and lacks great bulk. Shows some tightness in his hips and does not open his hips naturally. Can get stuck on big blockers and will get out of position trying to beat blocks by the back door.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Run-and-hit linebacker who needs to be protected so he can be free to the ball. Will not be stacked on some draft boards because of his diminutive size, but could be dynamite in a one-gap scheme like the Buccaneers' or Colts'. Plays with the same type of energy as Rams 1997 third-rounder Dexter Coakley.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

ILB
#10 **Tim McGARIGLE**
NORTH WESTERN
HT: 6-0 1/2 WT: 240 40-YARD: 4.75e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	12/4	98	1	0	0	0
2003	12/12	140	6	1	2	1
2004	12/12	151	6	1	5	1
2005	12/12	156	7	2	5	1

UPSIDE: Smart, productive and tough. Plays with passion and makes a lot of plays. Good football intelligence. Makes all the calls, checks and adjustments and has a coaches' understanding of the game. Plays hard. Will shuffle and flow and hit a crease as soon as it appears. Great work habits.

DOWNSIDE: Has very short arms and struggles to keep blockers off his body, which was noticeable at the East-West Shrine game. Looks tight in coverage and is not very fluid transitioning out of his breaks. Can get knocked around and lose sight of the ball. Will overrun the ball and have to fit back inside.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Was not protected as well as a senior and struggled more. Lack of size and athletic ability and short arms will push him down draft boards, but he is a good football player who will do everything he is asked to make a team. Ideal backup and special-teams contributor.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

- SPENCER HAVNER** | UCLA
Limited athlete with versatility to add depth.
- TRENT BRAY** | Oregon State
Very smart overachiever can be solid backup.
- OLIVER HOYTE** | North Carolina State
Hard-nosed, two-down "Mike" linebacker.
- ANTHONY SCHLEGEL** | Ohio State
Tough, instinctive, intelligent run plugger.
- CAMERON VAUGHN** | LSU
Still raw but showed improvement as senior.
- FREDDIE ROACH** | Alabama
Liability in coverage but can play inside.
- SAM MCGREW** | Florida State
Big, stiff, tough linebacker with NFL pedigree.
- JUSTIN LONDON** | UCLA
Plays aggressively but misses too many tackles.
- TIM GOODWELL** | Memphis
Opened some eyes at the Las Vegas Classic.
- JIMMY COTTRELL** | New Mexico State
Instinctive run-sniffer with strength to take on.

OLB PROSPECTS

A linebacker as refined as A.J. Hawk has not come out of college in a long time. Sure, there have been better athletes — there were more than a few in the 2000 draft class alone, including LaVar Arrington, Brian Urlacher and Keith Bulluck — but not since that class has there been a linebacker who has been drafted higher than Hawk will go, and not since then has there been more quality at the LB position in a draft, with six taken that year.

Most scouts have an easy time picking apart a player. With Hawk, it's difficult to find an area where he is deficient. His intangibles are off the

charts, and a team will know exactly what it is getting when it selects him. Rarely are linebackers selected in the top five, but for the first time since Arrington was taken second overall in 2000, Hawk could fit there.



Hawk's fellow Big Ten standout, Chad Greenway of Iowa, will not last much longer and, despite not having his best year as a senior, is the best coverage linebacker in the draft.

Alabama's DeMeco Ryans and Florida State junior Ernie Sims are the best "Sam" linebackers in the draft and should fit into the first round. Neither has prototypical size, but Ryans' instincts are comparable to Hawk's and cover up for his physi-

cal shortcomings. And Sims' quick-twitch explosiveness allows him to play much bigger than his size and invoke fear into opponents.

Several others could fit into the first round because of their tremendous athletic ability and versatility, including UTEP's Thomas Howard, Miami (Fla.)'s Roger McIntosh and Ohio State's Bobby Carpenter, although none of them have first-round instincts. Howard is the least instinctive of the group, and the injury history of McIntosh and Carpenter will likely push them to the second round.

Overall, this class has more quality at the top than depth, but some good football players will still be available on the second day.

OLB

1 **A.J. HAWK**

OHIO STATE

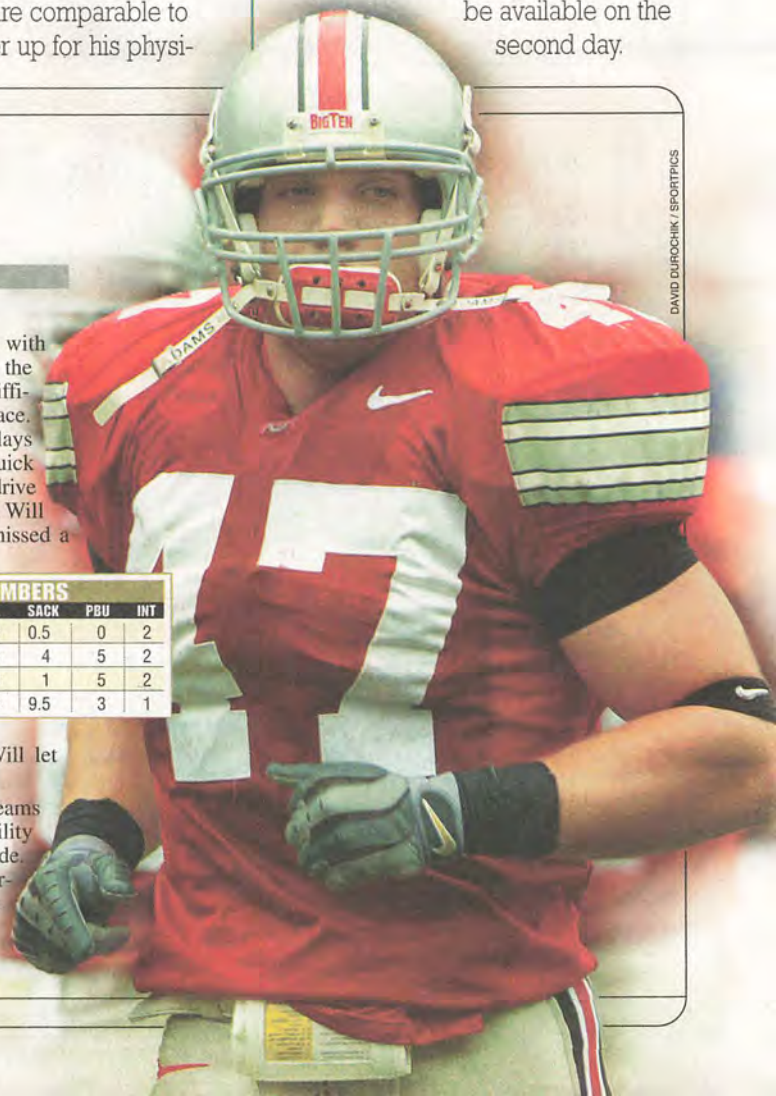
HT: 6-1½ WT: 243 40-YARD: 4.53

UPSIDE: Very instinctive. Outstanding football intelligence. Plays with great awareness. Very consistent and is usually in the right place at the right time. Runs alleys with tight angles, quickly fills lanes and is difficult to block. Can shock blockers with his punch and quickly cross face. Will strike, sacrifice his body and hit with force. Secure tackler. Plays with great balance and pad level. Finds the football fast and attacks. Quick to sniff out screens and draws. Forceful tackler who can pick up and drive ballcarriers backward. Tough and very intense. All-America character. Will do everything he can to get better. Very mentally tough. Has not missed a game or practice dating back to high school. Keeps his head on a swivel in zone coverage and sees crossers. Can run with backs and tight ends with ease and has good playing speed. Has dominated big games the last three years. Quick learner.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great height. Not a top-tier, elite athlete. Could do a better job unlocking his hips in coverage and changing directions. Will let blockers get into his body and can be cut at times.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A model of consistency, Hawk is exactly what teams desire at the core of their defense and has the intelligence and versatility to play any of the three LB positions. Best spot in the pros may be inside. He is a tough throwback linebacker similar to Falcons 1998 12th overall selection Keith Brooking. Projects as a top-10 pick because teams know exactly what they are getting, and there is little risk involved selecting him. Future Pro Bowl player.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	14/1	26	3.5	0.5	0	2
2003	13/12	106	13	4	5	2
2004	12/12	141	8	1	5	2
2005	12/12	121	16.5	9.5	3	1



DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTPICS

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

OLB

#2

Chad
GREENWAY

IOWA

HT: 6-2½ WT: 243 40-YARD: 4.45e



UPSIDE: Very naturally athletic with loose hips and excellent cover skills for a linebacker. Lines up in the slot and can lock down receivers. Has quick feet and smooth movement skills. Has sideline-to-sideline range and is superactive, making plays all over the field. Moves as well going backward as he does going forward. Very intelligent. Solid character. Has tremendous potential, having played eight-man football in high school and still learning to play the game.

DOWNSIDE: Can get tied up by blockers and needs clean avenues and hard windows to make tackles. Too often tries to take the back door to make tackles and will miss some that way. Not very stout at the point of attack and does not play physical enough. Gets out of position overpursuing and over-running plays and peeking in the backfield. Not the most reliable tackler sideline to sideline. Lets receivers and tight ends cross his face in coverage without putting his pads on them. Not very aggressive when he is attacked head-on. Needs to get stronger. Not a great blitz.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Did not play as well as a senior as he did the previous year, with most of his defensive line graduating to the NFL and blockers coming free at him at the second level. A natural, fluid, three-down linebacker who is best making plays side-to-side and in the open field. Behind a strong defensive line, he could be golden.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	9/0	15	0	0	1	0
2003	13/12	132	11	2	6	0
2004	12/12	113	8	3	5	3
2005	12/11	156	10	2	8	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



CHAD GREENWAY | IOWA

DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

OLB

#3

Ernie
SIMS [JR.]

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 5-11e WT: 220e 40-YARD: 4.6e



UPSIDE: Very, very tough. Plays physical. Will blast and just unload on ballcarriers. Good coverage ability. Very productive for a "Sam" linebacker. Plays with good pad level and natural leverage and shows the ability to control bigger blockers. Shows good awareness to force and contain. Thickly built with strong, powerful legs that he uses to uncoil on contact. Plays with a great base. Shows a burst out of his breaks and closes fast to the ball. Plays like a madman and elevates the play of his teammates. Explosive hitter who produces some violent collisions. Hits with such force that he had to be restricted by coaches in practice. Really hustles and arrives at the ball in a bad mood. Emotional leader. Loves to play.

DOWNSIDE: Does not always play under control and will take some bad angles to the ball. Overreacts way too often and bites hard on play-action. Lacks ideal height and bulk. Likes to use a trail technique in man coverage and does not have great awareness with his back to the ball, giving up a TD vs. Virginia. A bit bow-legged and has a history of concussions from slamming into opponents too hard.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A versatile, playmaking dynamo who would be best lining up on the weak side in the pros but could play any of the three LB positions. Does not have the size teams are looking for but has the football temperament to become an impact player in the right scheme.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2003	13/6	42	2	0	2	0
2004	12/11	86	9	4.5	5	0
2005	13/13	72	10	2.5	4	2

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

OLB

#4

DeMeco
RYANS

ALABAMA

HT: 6-1½ WT: 236 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Very smart and instinctive and plays fast. Gets downhill and is always around the ball. Plays with good knee bend. Makes a lot of plays on heart and hustle. Great awareness and intuitively knows where to be at the right time. Very active. Shows great lateral quickness and range. Good cover skills. Has a commanding on-field presence and all the intangibles scouts seek. Very competitive. Is a poster boy off the field and will represent a team well. Very solid character.

DOWNSIDE: Average size. Does not have a big frame. Not a great natural athlete and does not show top-end burst or explosiveness. Has straight calves. Plays at one speed and is not very sudden or quick. Misses some tackles and goes to his knees to make many. Not stout or explosive. Vulnerable when he is attacked head-on. Not great in space, and some scouts do not think he has the strength and size to move inside and be an interchangeable, three-position linebacker. Has small hands.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Is not as athletic or explosive as Dolphins 2003 second-round pick Eddie Moore, is not as fast as Buccaneers 2005 second-round pick Barrett Ruud and has nowhere near the explosiveness of Bengals 2005 second-round pick Odell Thurman. Thurman slipped in the draft due to character, whereas Ryans will move up boards because his character is exceptional, and his instincts and versatility could position him in the first round.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/2	27	1	0	0	0
2003	13/13	126	8.5	1.5	0	0
2004	12/11	78	7	0	2	0
2005	12/12	76	12	5	2	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

OLB

5 Roger "Rocky" McIntosh

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-2e WT: 235e 40-YARD: 4.65e



UPSIDE: Very active presence and really flies to the ball. Plays with endless energy and forces teams to account for him. Has great range and makes a lot of plays all over the field and in the backfield. Plays fast and instinctively. Great balance. Stays on his feet through traffic. Athletic enough to recover when he gets out of position. Very good production. Can blanket backs and cling to tight ends. Has smooth hips and can really run when he opens up his stride. Gets a good jump on the ball and comes out of his breaks quickly. Versatile and has played inside and outside. Engaged to be married. Smart and mature. Comes from a military family and is mature. Leads by example.

DOWNSIDE: Gets tied up on blocks longer than he should and has some difficulty disengaging. Needs to improve upper-body strength. Has been in the training room far more than coaches would have liked, with multiple shoulder, knee, hamstring and herniated-disc injuries. Durability will influence his draft status.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Injury history could push him down draft boards, but McIntosh is too gifted to get too far out of the first round. Range and coverage skills are superb and will peak the interest of a lot of teams. Would be a great fit in a defense predicated on speed that favors interchangeable linebackers, like the ones used by the Colts, Rams, Bears and Panthers.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT	
2002	12/6	43	8	0	2	0	
2003	12/0	23	1	0	2	0	
2004	10/9	111	13	4	3	0	
2005	12/11	89	10	5.5	0	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

OLB

6 Thomas Howard

UTEP

HT: 6-2½ WT: 231 40-YARD: 4.49



UPSIDE: The most naturally athletic linebacker in this draft, Howard has the movement skills to play safety. Very impressive-looking physical specimen. Has long arms to keep separation from tight ends. Terrific sideline-to-sideline range. Can lock down tight ends in man coverage and even cover slot receivers. Can flip his hips and go. Very quick feet and smooth hips. Great burst. Will deliver some slobberknockers playing at high velocity. Has NFL bloodlines with father who played in the league.

DOWNSIDE: Very average instincts. Plays with blinders on and does not have great awareness. Gets earholed without ever seeing it coming and does not feel pressure very well. Slow to read his keys and react. Thinks too much and plays hesitantly. Late to locate the ball. Lacks great size and needs to bulk up. Can get neutralized when he is attacked straight-on.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has played inside and outside but has not shown he can handle action coming at him from both directions and is at his best outside. Has lined up with his hand on the ground and could be best as a 3-4 rush linebacker, where he could concentrate on one task. Although he does not have a problem learning, he needs to play in a simple scheme where he is not asked to do too much. A scheme like the Patriots' that changes weekly would be his undoing.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT	
2002	11/4	31	2	0	1	0	
2003	13/10	118	11	2	0	1	
2004	12/12	62	14	8	3	2	
2005	12/12	85	7	3	7	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

OLB

7 Bobby Carpenter

OHIO STATE

HT: 6-2½ WT: 254 40-YARD: 4.61



DAVID DUBOCHK / SPORTSPICS

UPSIDE: Big and fast. Lines up over the tight end and is physical with the jam. Does not let receivers release cleanly. Very tough and plays hard. Brings a lot of energy and spirit to the field. Can squeeze and constrict running lanes and keep outside arm free. Plays the ball well in front of him in zone coverage and has good hands. Has an NFL pedigree with a father who played in the league. Great weight-room strength.

DOWNSIDE: Has too many peaks and valleys in his performance and is not as consistent as he should be. Does not have great change of direction. Can be late to find the ball. Is too analytical and overanalyzes instead of seeing and going. Asks too many questions. Broke his right ankle on the first drive vs. Michigan in the season finale and missed bowl game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Scouts wanted to see him play in the Senior Bowl to answer questions about whether he could cover, but he chose not to play. Can handle simple tasks like rushing the passer and is used a lot with his hand on the ground to take advantage of his athletic ability and hide his average cover instincts. Scouts like him, but they don't love him and think he will get overdrafted because of his physical ability. Has some versatility and can fit on the strong side in a 4-3 scheme or inside in a 3-4.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT	
2002	14/0	12	0	0	0	0	
2003	13/3	37	6.5	4.5	1	0	
2004	12/12	93	6.5	2	3	3	
2005	11/11	49	10.5	8	2	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND ROUND

OLB

8 Jon Alston

STANFORD

HT: 6-0½ WT: 223 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Shredded physique with great strength for his size. Explosive hitter. Can run around the field and close fast to the ball. Puts hand down on the ground in nickel situations and is disruptive coming off the edge, with 16½ sacks the last two years from both OLB positions. Has great lateral quickness and plays fast. Good chase speed. Will strike and roll his hips on contact. Plays with a sense of urgency. Has fluid movement skills to run stride for stride with backs and mirror them out of their breaks. Adjusts well to the ball in the air. Very smart and plays with awareness.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks ideal size and is built more like a safety than a linebacker. Plays out of control and will miss some tackles going for the kill shot. Can get engulfed by big blockers and struggle to come free. Does not have the anchor strength to hold his ground and squeeze running lanes.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Lined up on the strong side as a senior and was handcuffed playing out of position with few opportunities to make plays. Played more on the open side as a junior and looked like Superman going across the TV screen. Would be a great fit in a scheme like that of the Colts or Buccaneers, where he could see and go. Could be a demon on special teams and dynamite as a nickel linebacker, maybe even as a nickel safety. Is rocked up with muscle and has a build similar to that of former Steelers OLB Greg Lloyd when Lloyd was coming out of college.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT	
2002	11/5	30	2	2	0	0	
2003	10/0	21	4	3	0	0	
2004	11/11	62	14.5	10	0	1	
2005	11/11	52	9.5	6.5	1	1	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE OLB

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in OLB prospects

Instincts are the most critical trait a linebacker must possess, but on the outside, a higher premium is placed on **athletic ability**, with the ability to tackle in the open field, blitz, rush the passer and drop into coverage equally important. Outside 'backers must have great **range**. A 3-4 rush linebacker like Lawrence Taylor is used primarily to get upfield and bring pressure.

INSTINCTS

The ability to find the ball, read play-action and misdirection and quickly recognize whether to play the run or drop into coverage are critical at the OLB position. Derrick Brooks may earn entry into the Hall of Fame because of his great instincts and knack for being in the right place at the right time.

RANGE

Outside linebackers operate in space and must be able to get depth in their drops and cover backs — sometimes even receivers — in the slot. They must have enough speed and range to flow to the ball and chase down backs from sideline to sideline. The ability to cover a lot of ground is very important at the OLB position.

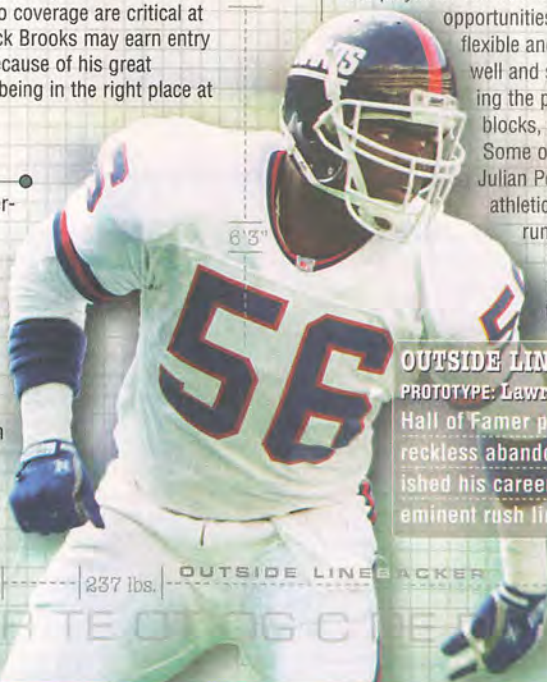
ATHLETIC ABILITY

The weak-side linebacker is expected to be the most productive player on the field by design and generally has the most opportunities to make plays. They must be fluid, flexible and athletic enough to do everything well and serve as a jack-of-all-trades — rushing the passer, blitzing, slipping and taking on blocks, playing man and zone coverage. Some of the best today — LaVar Arrington, Julian Peterson and Keith Bulluck — are so athletic that they get out of position overrunning plays and trying to do too much. The strong-side 'backer needs to be stronger with his hands to jam the tight end and beat the hook block.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER PROTOTYPE: Lawrence Taylor Hall of Famer played with reckless abandon and finished his career as the pre-eminent rush linebacker.

Rush linebackers in 3-4 defenses must be more accomplished pass rushers, but there is a premium on athleticism at any OLB spot.

— N.N.



237 lbs.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

PHOTO BY HARRY SCULL JR.

OLB

#9

Omar
GAITHER

TENNESSEE

HT: 6-2e WT: 235e 40-YARD: 4.8e



UPSIDE: Looks the part with good musculature. Has good instincts. Locates the ball quickly. Shows good hand use to control and disengage from blockers and play contain. Shows good lateral range and quickness to make plays to the sideline. Matches up well athletically with tight ends and shows nice cover skills. Has a great motor and plays hard. Emotional, vocal leader who sets the tone for the defense. Has good intangibles. Smart and very confident.

DOWNSIDE: Does not play very tough. Tends to tackle low and will overrun some plays outside. Is a bit undersized and gets driven off the ball and has to give ground to come free. Gets engulfed at the point of attack and will get out of position relying too much on his speed and athletic ability. Lacks great strength. Does not have good hands and has dropped some easy interceptions.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Filled in for Kevin Simon after he went down with injury in 2004 and has not left the field since. Continued to show improvement as a senior and made more plays. Would be best-suited playing on the weak side in the pros but may need a few years on special teams like he did at Tennessee before he is ready to start. Has the work ethic and desire to develop into a dependable player. At the very least, he should make a team as a special-teams player and backup.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/0	17	0	0	0	0
2003	12/0	23	3	0	0	0
2004	13/11	92	12.5	2	4	2
2005	11/11	78	7.5	4	1	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

OLB

#10

Keith
ELLISON

OREGON STATE

HT: 6-0% WT: 228 40-YARD: 4.7e



UPSIDE: Can line up in the slot and run with receivers. Smooth opening up his hips and shows nice transitional quickness and change of direction. Has good instincts and quickly diagnoses run-pass keys. Strong tackler. Shows good balance and stays on his feet through clutter. Uses his hands well to fight off blocks and will pop his hands and separate quickly. Plays with a low center of gravity and good pad level. Can bring pressure from the outside and be disruptive. Times blitzes well. Has natural cover skills and shows awareness in zones. Very good production for a "Sam" linebacker. He has good muscular development and a frame to continue to grow. Smart, works hard and takes the game seriously.

DOWNSIDE: Is undersized and can get pinballed inside. Lacks strength to hold the point. Can get stretched outside and struggle to turn the ball back in. Does not take on and shed well and is not a knockout hitter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Ellison, who started his career at San Diego State in 2002, does not have the anchor to play over the tight end at the next level nor great size to play on the weak side. However, Ellison is a smart football player with natural athletic ability and could turn out to be a great pro if he is protected and used properly.

BY THE NUMBERS						
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	11/0	34	0	0	2	1
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—
2004	12/12	67	10.5	4	7	1
2005	11/11	99	15	5	3	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

A.J. HAWK

TOUGH, SMART AND TALENTED, THIS OHIO STATE LINEBACKER RARELY SHOWS ANY FLAWS | By Trent Modglin

When he was being recruited, A.J. Hawk was asked by Ohio State coaches what he might see himself doing if football wasn't in his future.

Easy, he told them. An Army Ranger.

As big Pat Tillman fans, Hawk and fellow Buckeye LBs Bobby Carpenter and Anthony Schlegel decided to grow their hair long in a tribute to the former Cardinals safety-turned-Ranger who lost his life fighting the war on terrorism in Afghanistan.

Hawk, formerly sporting a crew-cut, currently looks more like he just returned to civilization after a few years in the mountains.

"We got used to it and didn't feel like cutting it off," says Hawk. "My mom used to give me a hard time, but she doesn't say much anymore."

As much publicity as his shaggy hairstyle gets, NFL scouts are keen on other things, like the way he diagnoses plays, tracks running backs and blitzes the passer. Hawk put the finishing touches on a second straight All-America campaign by leading the Buckeyes to a win over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl. He figures to be the top linebacker and one of the first defenders selected in April's draft. It is difficult to find something he can't do well.

"You know, if there is something, he's going to bust his ass to do it (right)," Buckeyes LB coach Luke Fickell says. "That's just the way he is. He's got tons of ability, but he really works so hard in everything he does — from the way he eats to the way he trains to the way he practices."

Hawk's instincts, quickness, strength and agility at 6-1, 240 pounds make him equally adept in coverage and playing off the ball as he is filling lanes in the trenches. But Fickell says that the Buckeyes weren't eager to pull him out of the box if they didn't have to because if someone missed an assignment, Hawk was the best man to clean up the mess.

As a senior, he led a stellar Buckeyes defense with 121 tackles and 16½ tackles for loss, tied for the team lead with 9½ sacks and added an interception, fumble recovery and a pair of forced fumbles. He was at his best in the biggest games. His senior class at Ohio State went 43-8 and won four bowl games, including the national championship as freshmen. Hawk might not have said much in his four-year

to time. But for him, it's work every day."

The other important trait that comes to mind for Fickell is Hawk's competitive spirit, which Fickell compares to that of a former teammate of his, Patriots LB Mike Vrabel. Hawk was known to battle the scout team in practice as hard as Ohio State's hated rivals from Ann Arbor. Whether it's playing cards, lifting weights or drilling a ballcarrier — people around him quickly learned that it doesn't matter. He craves the advantage in everything he does.

Many top seniors often choose to bolt campus following bowl season to train for the NFL Combine and focus on the NFL. Hawk, however, decided to buck that trend. He is taking a full load in this, Ohio State's third quarter, and then he'll have only one class remaining in the final quarter to earn his degree in criminology.

When Hawk does finally trade his backpack for an NFL playbook, Carpenter, his teammate, likely won't be far behind. Carpenter should be a late first-round or second-round pick despite fracturing an ankle in November. Hawk's circle of friends also includes Chad Greenway, the linebacker from Iowa who is also a surefire first-round pick. The two met at a Big Ten luncheon a while back and keep in touch by phone, bouncing training regimens off each other and sharing advice on making the jump to the next level. Hawk, admittedly raw coming out of high school, credits the Big Ten for getting him ready for the physical rigors of the NFL, as well as showing him a wide variety of offenses from week to week.

It won't be long, though, until Hawk goes from being the big man on campus to a bottom-feeder on the food chain, better known as the high-priced NFL rookie who is told, not asked, to carry shoulder pads back to the locker room and buy steak dinners.

"I knew this day was coming, and that I was going to have to move on, but that's a good thing," Hawk says. "I'm just glad that hopefully I'm going to get an opportunity to keep playing football. If my career was over, it would be a different feeling. I'm going to work like I always have and learn from the older guys, which is what I did when I got to Ohio State — really try to soak it all in and understand from the guys that had been good players for a while, how they did that and what got them there."

But what if those same veterans he looks up to request that he cut his hair? Or worse yet, hold him down and do it themselves? Fickell said no one bothered Hawk about his lengthy mane at Ohio State, mainly because it was just something he wanted to do. It was never to draw attention to himself. That's not his style. But when he officially carries the rookie title, he may not have a say in the matter. He may have to part way with, well, the part.

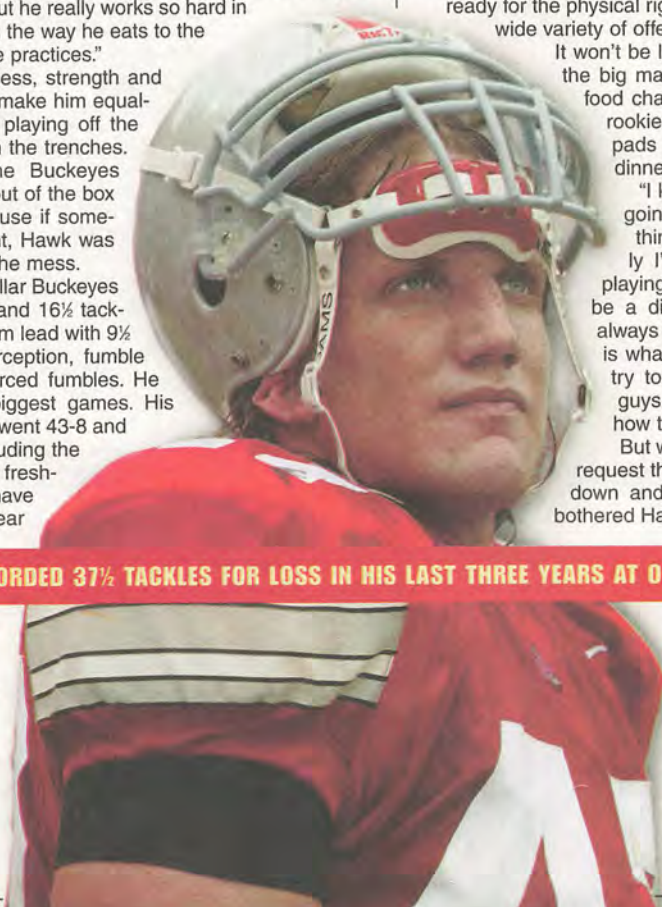
"I guess I'll have to handle that when it comes," Hawk says with a laugh. "I haven't really thought about that too much, but it's a possibility I guess."

Somewhere, in a better place, a fallen Army Ranger will understand it's a natural rite of passage.

FAST FACT: HAWK RECORDED 37½ TACKLES FOR LOSS IN HIS LAST THREE YEARS AT OSU

stint, but his actions spoke for themselves.

"The effort he gives, and it doesn't matter when, that to me is something I don't know you're going to find in everybody," says Fickell. "A lot of times, I would figure even the great players coast from time



DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

OLB

11 Clint INGRAM

OKLAHOMA

HT: 6-1 WT: 240 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	8/0	11	0	0	0	0
2003	13/0	5	0	0	0	0
2004	13/11	50	4	2	3	0
2005	12/12	61	12	5	4	5

UPSIDE: Naturally strong and explosive. Can bench-press a house and jump through the roof and will work out very well. Plays with gusto and brings energy to the field. Likes to hit and will uncoil on blockers and drive through tackles. Athletic enough to run with tight ends and backs.

DOWNSIDE: Is not instinctive and does not show good awareness or feel pressure when action is coming from both directions. Too stiff and tightly wound and struggles to break down in the open field. Not very smart and does not play smart. Needs to be more disciplined.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has the pure physical talent to start for most teams immediately, but his lack of instincts could make it difficult to earn a coaches' trust. Stock will surge after impressive workouts, but he is not as good of a football player as he is an athlete. Has boom-or-bust potential.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

OLB

12 A.J. NICHOLSON

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 6-0½ WT: 241 40-YARD: 4.7e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/0	23	1	1	0	0
2003	13/3	55	3	0	2	0
2004	12/12	88	11.5	4	2	1
2005	12/12	100	10	1	2	2

UPSIDE: Very skilled at slipping and avoiding blockers and is able to come downhill and make plays that go at him. Reads his keys and is quick to react. Closes quickly to the ball. Gets good depth in his drops and pops out of his breaks. Shows good awareness and has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. Has an NFL pedigree — father, Darrell, played linebacker for the New York Giants.

DOWNSIDE: Missed too many tackles and is not as productive as he should be. On the short side and plays too tall. Needs to play with better pad level. Does not use his hands well to shed. Has questionable character, with multiple off-field incidents, including an alleged charge of rape before his final bowl game that forced him to be sent home before the game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Needs to become a more secure tackler to earn a starting job in the pros. Character has come into question and could affect his draft status.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

OLB

13 William KERSHAW

MARYLAND

HT: 6-2½ WT: 230 40-YARD: 4.6f

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	10/0	29	0	0	0	0
2003	11/0	25	1	0	0	0
2004	11/10	74	6	2	2	1
2005	10/10	76	5.5	1	0	1

UPSIDE: Has good playing strength and can hold his ground and take on blocks. Will scrape off tackle and drop offensive linemen to their knees on impact. Gets downhill and makes plays behind the line of scrimmage. Good movement skills and can run with receivers in man coverage. Plays with a lot of energy. Tough competitor. Great worker.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks great size and is not very athletic. Has tight hips and does not change direction very easily. Too straight-linish. Does not look natural dropping in zones and takes some false steps. Does not have great instincts and could have a bit of a learning curve trying to digest an NFL playbook.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Became more of a worker and developed into a solid player as a senior. Needs to play a Jason Gildon-type of a role because he is so tight and is best-suited to be used as a "Sam" linebacker in a 3-4 scheme.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

OLB

14 James ANDERSON

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-2½ WT: 222 40-YARD: 4.5f

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	14/0	48	3	1.5	0	0
2003	13/0	41	0	0	0	0
2004	13/12	48	6.5	2.5	1	1
2005	13/13	82	8.5	3	4	2

UPSIDE: Lines up in the slot and can run with receivers. Smooth mover with loose hips. Nice zone awareness and cover skills. Can come off the edge and bring pressure as a blitzer. Plays fast and shows great range to make plays sideline to sideline. Very naturally athletic. Solid character.

DOWNSIDE: Does not take good angles and will run himself out of position trying to use his athletic ability to avoid blockers. Lacks the size to effectively take on blocks and gets hammered and bounced around by physical blockers. Has limited play strength and does not use his hands well to get free. Average instincts.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has the speed and cover skills to fit as a nickel linebacker and special-teams contributor, and with continued development, eventually could turn out to be something more in an upfield, attacking scheme. Took time to develop for the Hokies and made his senior season his best.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 5TH-6TH ROUND

OLB

15 Jamar WILLIAMS

ARIZONA STATE

HT: 6-0½ WT: 249 40-YARD: 4.7f

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	TFL	SACK	PBU	INT
2002	13/1	37	4	1	1	1
2003	12/12	68	10.5	1	3	1
2004	12/12	81	6.5	2	0	3
2005	11/10	70	4	2	0	3

UPSIDE: Three-year starter. Has a good, solid build. Very strong. Shows above-average instincts. Takes good angles. Makes quick reads and gets to the ball. Very active. Versatile and can play multiple positions. Good special-teams player. Smart and coachable.

DOWNSIDE: Will lunge and miss on the jam and can be too aggressive. Will slip and come under blocks and miss the tackle. Does not have great body control and could play with more balance and better pad level. Could play with more discipline. Needs to do a better job of using his hands to control blockers. Coverage skills could improve. Very limited as a pass rusher when he lines up on the line and will get driven off the ball. Questionable character.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Defensive leader with the intelligence, intangibles and instincts to develop into a starter, but still has a lot of room for improvement before he is ready.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 4TH-5TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

16. **TERNA NANDE** | Miami (Ohio)
Workout warrior suited for special teams.

17. **KEVIN SIMON** | Tennessee
Too small for ILB and gets dinged up easily.

18. **TRAVIS WILLIAMS** | Auburn
Passionate, core, special-teams player.

19. **BRANDON JOHNSON** | Louisville
Long, rangy and athletic and needs to bulk up.

20. **ANTHONY TRUCKS** | Oregon
OLB-SS tweener with 11 sacks as senior.

21. **MARCELLO CHURCH** | Florida State
Standout special-teamer. Broke leg late in '05.

22. **WILL DERTING** | Washington State
Too undersized and injury-prone for pro level.

23. **KEVIS COLEY** | Southern Mississippi
Tough overachiever made name for self as senior.

24. **BOBBY IWUCHUKWU** | Purdue
Much better athlete than football player.

25. **RICKY BROWN** | Boston College
Speed could give chance on special teams.

CB PROSPECTS

This year's cornerback class was enhanced by the exodus of many juniors, some who should have stayed in school another year and a number who project as early picks.

The star of the class is Texas' Michael Huff, who may be the best at every secondary position in this draft. He is smart, confident and instinctive with good range, closing speed and ball skills. He has played every position in the secondary and brings tremendous versatility.

With NFL receivers growing increasingly bigger in recent years, the need has grown for big cover corners. This year, as much as any time in the history of the draft, there are many of those players. The junior class features two of the top big men in Florida State's Antonio Cromartie and Ohio State's Ashton Yuboty, and the senior class is just as deep with Virginia Tech's Jimmy Williams, Texas' Cedric Griffin, Penn State's Alan Zemaitis and Anwar Phillips, Boston College's Will Black-

mon and Miami (Fla.)'s Marcus Maxey all measuring in at nearly 6-feet or taller.

But speed can compensate for size, and some of the smaller corners, including Clemson's Tye Hill, Miami (Fla.)'s Kelly Jennings and Georgia's Tim Jennings, can all flat-out fly.

Typically, there have been about 12 corners drafted on the first day in recent years, and this year could feature even more. With the depth of the CB class being solid, there should even be some steals, similar to 2004 fourth-rounder and Pro Bowl CB Nathan Vasher (Bears), available on the second day.

Several juniors who declared early, such as Florida's Dee Webb, South Carolina's Johnathan Joseph and Kansas' Charles Gordon, may regret their decision and could have used another year in school. Abilene Christian's Danieal Manning, despite being from a small school, will likely go much higher than the rest and is blessed with tremendous physical tools.

2006 CLASS GRADE
B+

CB

1

Michael
HUFF

TEXAS

HT: 6-0 | WT: 198 | 40-YARD: 4.35e

UPSIDE: Very versatile and has lined up at every position in the secondary throughout his career. Four-year starter with 50 career starts in a national championship program. Never has to leave the field. Terrific speed, range and instincts. Fearless tackler who will face up and throw ballcarriers to the ground. Supports the run aggressively and is quick to fill the alley. Can slip blocks with speed. Sudden and quick off spots with nice bounce in his feet and legs. Moves so smoothly he looks like he is barely moving. Shows great closing speed. Very instinctive. Shows good awareness in man and zone coverage. Makes plays on the ball. Takes good angles, can get over the top and stays as deep as the deepest receiver in coverage. Can recover if he gets out of position. Times up blitzes to a "T." Great football intelligence. Makes all the secondary calls. Outstanding character. Leads vocally and by example. Driven to be great.

DOWNSIDE: Has not been a full-time cornerback since his sophomore year and some projection will be involved with the move. Lacks great size for the safety position.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Projects best to cornerback in the pros and is a low-risk top-10 pick because he is so versatile and tackles well enough to stick at safety if he has any difficulty on the edge. However, he has the skills to play corner and is bigger, faster and has better ball skills and playmaking ability than 2002 fifth overall pick Quentin Jammer. In this draft, he is the best corner, best free safety and the best strong safety.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/13	70	10	2	55	0	1
2003	13/12	66	6	2	82	1	0
2004	12/12	73	14	2	14	1	0
2005	13/13	109	14	1	11	4	2



2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND



ANTONIO CROMARTIE | FLORIDA STATE

#2

Antonio
CROMARTIE [JR.]

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 6-2e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.4e



UPSIDE: Phenomenal athlete whom FSU coaches have described as the best to have entered the program since Deion Sanders. Has rare movement skills for his size. Based on his sophomore season, Cromartie showed better ball skills than Carlos Rogers, excellent speed and good anticipation skills. Fluid mover. Really stood out vs. Miami (Fla.) in 2004.

DOWNSIDE: Is coming off an anterior cruciate ligament injury and has not played in a year. Will take some time before he is fully recovered. Is still very young and immature. Has never been a full-time starter.

THE WAY WE SEE IT:

Big cornerbacks historically have struggled with transitional quickness in the NFL because

their length too often restricts their capacity to bend, sink their hips and get out of breaks, but Cromartie is surprisingly supple for his size. He healed very quickly from a torn ACL injury suffered in the summer prior to the 2005 season and was running close to full speed without a limp and going through the motions with the second-team defense in practice late in the season. If and when he can make a full recovery, Cromartie could potentially be the best big corner since Mike Haynes. Financial considerations played into Cromartie's decision, and teams better be certain his motivation won't change after a big payday before investing a high pick.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	13/0	19	2	1	71	0	0
2004	12/1	22	6	4	40	0	1
2005	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

#3

Kelly
JENNINGS

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 5-11e WT: 175e 40-YARD: 4.35e



UPSIDE: Three-and-a-half-year starter for an elite program that has produced some of the NFL's top secondary standouts. Clearly well-coached. Excellent cover skills with loose hips and great feet. Tied for third in the nation in pass breakups as a senior and got his hands on a lot of balls. Very smart and well-grounded. Has a quiet confidence about him. Matched up well with Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson and showed he could handle bigger receivers. Has a good feel for routes and can anticipate where receivers are going to be out of their breaks. Can hip-lock and cling to his man and allows very little separation. Shows good transitional quickness to flip his hips and get out of breaks. Plays with discipline.

DOWNSIDE: Could be more physical and secure as a tackler and more aggressive in run support. Lack of upper-body strength does not allow him to get great jams on receivers and hem them at the line. Does not have natural hands and drops some easy balls he should catch. Not superexplosive and doesn't show top-end acceleration.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: As Miami's top lock-down corner, Jennings was regularly given the team's top assignment and was usually able to shut down the opponent's best. Has the savvy to line up in the slot as a nickel corner. Very dependable, finesse man-cover corner who has regularly lined up against some of the fastest players in the country and should easily be able to transition to the pros.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	12/12	25	6	1	0	0	0
2003	13/5	18	6	0	0	0	0
2004	12/12	40	5	2	1	0	0
2005	12/12	32	13	3	36	4	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

#4

Ashton
YUBOTY [JR.]

OHIO STATE

HT: 6-0½e WT: 190e 40-YARD: 4.4e



UPSIDE: Big, strong, physical and has smooth movement skills for his size. Naturally athletic. Very tough. Good, strong tackler who is quick to support the run and shows the toughness desirable to be effective filling the alley as a safety. Has long arms and uses them well to jam.

DOWNSIDE: Lost his confidence as a junior and played too inconsistently. Scouts have seen too many brain freezes in his play. Recognition skills are questionable and does not make quick decisions to act on the ball. Does not have great closing speed and has not shown he could instinctively maneuver, adjust, flip his hips and close, especially versus quick, sudden receivers that could leave him exposed.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could have been a top-15 pick in 2007 if he had returned, but given the success of young Buckeyes cornerbacks in the pros, with Shawn Springs, Nate Clements and Chris Gamble all fitting into the first round, Yuboty's chances are still good to fit into the first. Gamble, taken 28th overall in 2004 by the Panthers, was even more inconsistent as a junior and did not have quite the size or pure speed that Yuboty possesses. Yuboty is more physical than Gamble but not as explosive and sudden to close. Yuboty makes plays, but he also gives up too many. If he is surrounded by a strong group of veteran talent and has good coaching like Gamble has had in Carolina, Yuboty could thrive.

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	13/1	14	0	0	0	0	0
2004	12/9	61	14	4	83	0	0
2005	12/12	56	9	1	-6	0	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST-2ND ROUND

CE

#5

Jimmy WILLIAMS

VIRGINIA TECH

HT: 6-2½ WT: 205 40-YARD: 4.47



UPSIDE: Big, physical, instinctive and rangy. Has good movement skills and can cover a lot of ground. Versatility brings added protection, with the ability to kick inside if he cannot handle playing on the edge. Has experience at corner and safety. Very aggressive tackler and is quick to support the run. Can stick receivers at the line of scrimmage and is physical at the line. Good hand use to jam and re-route receivers and beat blockers.

DOWNSIDE: Technique has a ways to go before it catches up to his athletic ability. Has college experience at safety but has not shown the mental aptitude to get teammates lined up correctly and cannot be trusted manning deep zones. Plays out of control, misses a lot of tackles and is not very disciplined. Not a finished product and will need a lot of coaching to correct his flaws. Character is a concern. Very flashy and seeks attention. Lacks focus. Gets beat taking risks and coming underneath and gets caught with his eyes in the backfield peeking too much. Struggles in off-coverage and loses too much separation out of his breaks. Does not have great hands and drops some very catchable balls.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Big, fast, athletic corners generally don't last very long in the draft, and Williams may not get out of the first round because of his measurables. Best chance will come with a patient DB coach who can coach him. Zone awareness and physical nature may lend best to a cover-2 scheme. Boom-or-bust potential.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	14/0	46	1	1	9	0	0
2003	13/13	114	5	2	83	0	2
2004	13/13	60	14	5	81	0	0
2005	13/13	44	5	1	0	0	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST-2ND ROUND

CE

#6

Richard MARSHALL [JR.]

FRESNO STATE

HT: 5-11e WT: 190e 40-YARD: 4.35e



UPSIDE: Looks the part. Has good size with quick feet and natural movement skills. Can flip his hips and transition quickly out of his breaks. Good anticipation and awareness. Has blazing speed and can recover when he gets out of position. Solid wrap-up tackler who will come hard up to support the run fast. Plays physical. Led the team in tackles, pass breakups, interceptions and fumble recoveries as a junior and production was very solid. Has returned three of his nine career interceptions for touchdowns and can create after the catch. Confident in his ability and brings a swagger to the field.

DOWNSIDE: Not very disciplined and can lose position and give up extra yardage trying to jump routes without securing the tackle. Tries too make too many big plays.

Footwork is inconsistent and takes too many false steps in transition. Lets balls be caught in front of him and let Oregon WR Demetrius Williams make a lot of plays.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A risk-taker who could have used another year of seasoning to hone his instincts, but Marshall has the natural ability to match up stride for stride with NFL receivers. He was regularly assigned to shut down the opponent's top receiver in isolated, man coverage and usually did. Matches up well with bigger receivers and kept USC's Dwayne Jarrett in check. Marshall's blend of size and speed could bring him off draft boards in the first round.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	13/3	37	6	3	83	1	1
2004	12/12	61	5	3	205	0	0
2005	13/13	78	11	3	17	1	2

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST-2ND ROUND

CE

#7

Tye HILL

CLEMSON

HT: 5-9½ WT: 187 40-YARD: 4.3e



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

UPSIDE: Extremely fast and can flat-out fly with world-class, sprinter's speed. May be the fastest cornerback in the draft and can match up with any receiver downfield with vertical speed. Shows the toughness to come up hard and support the run. Has long arms to wrap up. Has a solid, muscular build for a little man. Shows a great burst to recover and good leaping ability.

DOWNSIDE: Double-steps and can be late to break down and speed-turn. Will fall off some tackles. Uses bail technique and does not pedal. Doesn't play as fast as he times. Doesn't time jumps well. Doesn't finish or possess the natural hands to make plays. His three picks as a senior were gifts thrown right at him. Lacks great passion for the game and appears to some to be just a track star playing football. Not natural in press coverage and is rarely used to play it. Doesn't have great instincts and will misread routes and get burned, like he did in the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Plays tougher than a sprinter but has a sprinter's hands, although they did improve after he started wearing contacts. Hill, who played running back and on special teams in 2002, will immediately upgrade a team's speed. He will be able to keep stride with the fastest of receivers, but a lack of size will allow bigger receivers to crack peanuts off his helmet. Scouts have some concerns about how he will handle money and respond to fame and fortune. Cover skills showed at Senior Bowl could elevate stock.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/0	6	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/11	37	7	2	-2	1	0
2004	11/11	52	21	0	0	0	0
2005	12/12	54	7	3	35	1	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 1ST-2ND ROUND

CE

#8

Cedric GRIFFIN

TEXAS

HT: 6-0½ WT: 190 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Big and physical 3½-year starter in a national championship program. Shows the versatility and toughness to line up at safety. Can bracket receivers and carry them deep, showing the zone awareness to switch off and play the ball in his zone. Likes to hit and plays physical in run support, working quickly to get off blocks. Shows good catch-up speed. Smart and respectful. Responds well to coaching and works hard to improve. Instinctive. Has been very durable and has not missed any time due to injuries.

DOWNSIDE: Does not play the deep ball well and has struggled in man-off coverage. Can be undisciplined, and tends to rise in his pedal and uses a shuffle-and-bail technique that can leave him vulnerable when adjusting to breaks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A press, cover-2 corner with upside as a safety. Would be a great fit for the Buccaneers, Bears, Eagles and Colts. A cross between Bears 2003 second-round pick (35th overall) Charles Tillman and Rams 2005 second-round pick (50th overall) Ronald Bartell. Has the work habits and intangibles to play a long time in the league, and if used properly, can be very effective. Improved his stock at the Senior Bowl after showing he could handle man-off coverage during the week and making a great interception in the endzone during the game.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/6	73	4	0	0	2	0
2003	13/13	48	7	1	0	0	0
2004	12/12	68	6	2	29	1	1
2005	13/13	86	15	0	0	2	1

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE CB

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in CB prospects

With receivers becoming increasingly bigger and faster, there is a premium on big, physical corners who can run like Mike Haynes, who was well ahead of his time. At 6-1, 205, Chris McAlister is one of the biggest and best today and more importantly, plays with great **confidence**. Teams have big concerns about corners under 5-10 today, but if they have great **ball skills**, **closing speed** and **instincts**, size can be compensated for.

CONFIDENCE

When a corner is beat, everyone sees it. All cornerbacks get beat, but when they do, they must have a short memory and line up the next play with the same confidence in their ability. Teams want cornerbacks to have a swagger and be physical at the line of scrimmage and as tacklers.

BALL SKILLS

Great cornerbacks feel entitled to the ball as much as a receiver and attack it like it is theirs. The number of times a corner gets his hand on the ball in college directly correlates to how well he can do the same thing in the pros.

CORNERBACK

PROTOTYPE: Mike Haynes
Well before his time, Haynes was a big, physical corner playing in what would now be regarded as a little man's game.

CLOSING SPEED

How fast a corner can transition out of his backpedal, flip his hips and plant and drive on the ball. Deion Sanders could close in such a hurry that he would let a receiver gain two steps on him and bait the quarterback before bursting into another gear. He could lock down half of the field because of his ability to come off receivers and close on others in his zone.

Great cornerbacks do not take any false steps or waste any motion out of their breaks, taking a bee-line to the ball. They are sudden, and more importantly than pure straight-line speed, can change gears fast, giving up very little separation.

INSTINCTS

Being able to recognize routes unfolding, keep the quarterback in vision and get an early jump on the ball. Having the awareness to maintain enough cushion in their backpedal to dictate what route a receiver should run. Cover-2 corners don't need to have great speed, but they must be instinctive in short areas.

— N.N.

CORNERBACK

192 lbs.

QB RB WR TE OT OG C DE DT LB OLB CB S

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS


CB

#9

Alan ZEMAITIS

PENN STATE

HT: 6-1e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Three-year starter in the Big Ten Conference. Has a strong lower body. Smooth in his backpedal and athletic enough to turn and transition out of breaks. Has quick feet and sound footwork. Shows little wasted motion in his movement. Very disciplined in zone coverage with great awareness and reactions on the ball. Nice instincts. Good vision to rotate eyes between the quarterback and his man. Gets a great jump on three-step drops. Good ball skills and reliable hands. Solid open-field tackler. Tough. Consistent tackler. Shows good awareness and has an intuitive feel for where the ball is going. Very coachable. Smart. Outstanding worker.

DOWNSIDE: Some scouts think he is too long-legged and stiff-hipped to play off-coverage and really struggled vs. Northwestern. Does not have elite, top-end speed to man up with receivers deep and is used almost exclusively in zone coverage. Will rise out of his pedal, in turn slowing his transitional quickness.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Shows the toughness, instincts and ball skills to be very effective as a cover-2 corner and is best playing with the ball in front of him. With limited man-cover skills, some teams would even like to move him to safety. More of a natural ballhawk and playmaker than teammate Anwar Phillips, and he changed the outcome of games as a senior.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/0	12	0	0	0	0	0
2003	12/10	71	18	4	207	1	0
2004	11/11	47	6	2	27	0	0
2005	12/12	51	10	6	35	2	2

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND-3RD ROUND


CB

#10

Will BLACKMON

BOSTON COLLEGE

HT: 5-11½ WT: 191 40-YARD: 4.56



UPSIDE: Smooth mover with good athletic ability. Called the best athlete on the team. Has loose hips and good foot quickness. Shows nice closing speed and a short-area burst. Has return value and great versatility to contribute on special teams. Is a threat to go the distance and plays faster than he times. Can really move once he opens up his stride. Could bring some value as a fifth receiver with natural hands. Showed some improvement at receiver late in the year.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks great top-end speed and is not very physical supporting the run. Does not use his hands very well to jam receivers at the line of scrimmage. Saw limited action at cornerback as a senior. As a route runner, he is very raw and may need a few years before he is ready to contribute.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Having moved to receiver as a senior (51 catches for 763 yards and four touchdowns) and having played cornerback primarily in nickel and dime packages last fall, scouts did not have good footing on which to make an evaluation heading into the Senior Bowl. The week of practice was as critical for Blackmon as any player, with the need to reaffirm his cover skills, and Blackmon looked fairly comfortable returning to the corner. Will struggle matching up with elite NFL receivers, but he could make a living in a cover-2 scheme.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	11/0	29	1	1	29	1	1
2003	13/0	64	10	4	21	1	1
2004	12/8	46	2	3	9	1	0
2005	12/0	2	0	0	0	0	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND-3RD ROUND

CB

#11

**Marcus
MAXEY**

MIAMI (Fla.)

HT: 6-2e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.3e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	11/0	4	0	0	0	0	0
2003	12/0	13	0	0	0	0	1
2004	11/4	21	3	0	0	0	1
2005	12/11	27	3	2	32	0	0

UPSIDE: Tremendous natural athlete who is able to recover when he gets out of position. Is going to test through the roof and impress teams with his tremendous blend of size and speed. Has quick feet and can mirror receivers.

DOWNSIDE: Struggled to earn playing time during his first three years in the program and was too inconsistent and unreliable. Not very smart and does not show great awareness with his back to the ball. Takes too many false steps. Technique needs refinement. Only a one-year starter. Shows some tightness in his hips.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Late bloomer who was stuck playing behind a very talented group of corners early in his career and finally got an opportunity to show he could play after beating out Devin Hester for a starting job as a senior. Best in press coverage, where he could use his strength at the line and trail.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

CB

#12

**Danicael
MANNING [JR.]**

ABILENE CHRISTIAN

HT: 5-11e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.35e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	10/10	56	3	6	41	3	1
2004	10/10	54	6	2	11	1	2
2005	10/10	49	4	3	47	2	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Versatile and can return kicks and line up at safety or corner. Has fluid movement skills and tremendous speed. Can flat-out fly. The more you see him, the more you like what he can do. Makes a lot of plays. Naturally athletic and instinctive. Has shown the ability to dominate at the Division II level.

DOWNSIDE: Has not faced top-notch competition. Is very raw, and technique needs refinement. Takes some false steps out of his breaks and plays recklessly.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Began career at Nebraska but transferred to ACU early in his career and developed into a playmaker. May need to be baby-sat early on, but he is smarter, more athletic and just as fast as Packers 2005 second-round pick Nick Collins. Similar to Collins and Rashean Mathis, both small school Division I-AA corners, Manning could easily fit into the second round because of his return ability. Might be best at safety.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 2ND-3RD ROUND

CB

#13

**Tim
JENNINGS**

GEORGIA

HT: 5-8 WT: 185 40-YARD: 4.35

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	14/3	32	3	3	109	0	1
2003	12/7	45	11	1	6	0	0
2004	12/12	37	9	2	0	0	0
2005	13/13	56	4	4	79	1	0

UPSIDE: Good cover skills and instincts. Plays in squat technique and shows speed and explosiveness that teammate DeMario Minter does not have. Plays very fast and shows terrific transitional quickness to get a great jump on the ball and make plays. Shows an extra gear to accelerate. Can read routes and anticipate in zone coverage. Has solid hands. Will support hard vs. the run. Is a good tackler. Exceptional leaping ability.

DOWNSIDE: Looks every bit of 5-8 and is too short. Will lose a step out of his breaks and can get beat on outs and digs. Not very smart and has some learning deficiencies.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not quite as explosive as Broncos 2005 second-round pick Darrent Williams or as instinctive as Patriots 2005 third-round pick Ellis Hobbs but shows some similar playmaking ability and the closing speed to be effective as a nickel back. If he were three inches taller, he would be getting looks in the first round.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

CB

#14

**John
WALKER**

USC

HT: 6-1e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.45e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2003	10/0	3	1	0	0	0	0
2004	13/0	3	0	0	0	0	0
2005	11/5	31	4	2	1	0	0

UPSIDE: Very well-built with outstanding size and sprinter's speed. Has played safety and shows enough range to handle the job in the pros. Shows enough athletic ability to recover when he gets out of position. Brings added versatility on special teams.

DOWNSIDE: Plays like a converted receiver and needs a lot of technique work after getting a late start playing the game, not suiting up until his sophomore year in high school because of a clause in his acting contract that prevented him from doing anything that could affect his appearance. Very raw and still learning the game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: The best athlete in the Trojans' secondary, Walker emerged from his nickel-back role after Eric Wright transferred and Terrell Thomas was injured and played very well late in the year. Could get looks on the first day for his measurables alone.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND



CHARLES GORDON | KANSAS

CB

#15

**Charles
GORDON [JR.]**

KANSAS

HT: 5-10e WT: 175e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	12/10	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	12/12	57	8	7	52	1	1
2005	12/12	28	3	2	0	1	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has lined up at receiver and will attack the ball in the air like a receiver on defense with his long arms. Very instinctive. Has nice feet and fluid hips to transition and quickly pop out of breaks. Has some upside as a corner when he returns to his natural position. Nice return skills.

DOWNSIDE: Is too undersized to match up with many NFL receivers and does not have special speed. Not strong. Shows average speed out of his turns and is susceptible to getting beaten on deep posts. Size could leave him vulnerable to injury and will not fit in a lot of schemes.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Moved to receiver after leading the nation in interceptions as a sophomore and did not have the type of junior year he expected. Small, slow corners typically struggle in the NFL unless they are tough, physical and have the ball skills to fit into a cover-2 scheme, where they have more value. How Gordon measures and tests will impact his draft status.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 3RD-4TH ROUND

UP CLOSE:

COVER-2 CORNERS

ALAN ZEMAITIS' RANGE AND STRONG TACKLING MAKE HIM AN IDEAL TARGET FOR COVER-2 TEAMS

By Jeff Reynolds

He's not tall, fast or strong enough for the classification of "prototype cornerback" in any other defense, but Ronde Barber perfectly fits the "Tampa Two."

The basic cover-2 — a system that has become in vogue for the rich dividends paid to teams that employ the zone-coverage scheme, including Tampa Bay, Indianapolis and Chicago — doesn't require a cornerback to possess the pure cover skills of Deion Sanders or Rod Woodson.

"In a man (coverage) defense, you are focused more on one receiver," said Tony Dungy, who brought the defense to prominence with the Vikings, Buccaneers and Colts. "Our corners are more focused on one area."

On a given play in this defense, a cornerback is positioned head up on a receiver — just as most man-to-man, press-type coverages demand — and is required to bump or jam the receiver. The purpose is to re-route the release

of that receiver, part of the endeavor to curtail big plays by keeping everything in front of the two deep safeties.

"If you do your job as a cornerback in this defense, you always have a vision of the quarterback," Barber said. "Everything is in front of you. Then you can get after people and make plays. The premise of the cover-2 is to keep everything inside, in front, and run and hit people."

Barber disagrees with the notion that defensive backs can be overlooked in this system. The four-time All-Pro believes there are even more opportunities in a zone-based scheme like Tampa Bay's, and especially for cornerbacks, who must be intelligent, instinctive and big tacklers. Barber has at least 90 tackles in six straight seasons and is the only player in NFL history with 20 sacks and 20 interceptions.

"Very first thing we look for is toughness," said ex-Bears DB coach Perry Fewell, now the Bills' defensive coordinator. "You have to be willing to come up and tackle. Then, do you have discipline? A lot of our coverages are based on discipline and also instincts. You have to be able to attack the ball in the air. The last thing is: Will you, and have you, been able to make plays?"

Might the next great cover-2 cornerback come out of the current class?

Penn State's Alan Zemaitis (6-1, 200), a converted high school running back with safety size, is an ideal fit. Often rolled up to cover the short outside zone in Joe Paterno's defense, Zemaitis has the awareness and range for the role. Because of those attributes, multiple teams view both Zemaitis and Virginia Tech CB Jimmy Williams (6-2½, 205) as free safeties. Zone-heavy teams should have eyes for Williams, Zemaitis, Georgia's DeMario Minter (5-11½, 198) and Marcus Hudson (6-0½, 197) from North Carolina State.

One great fit might help turn a defense

around, and there are traditionally bargains for cover-2 shoppers. Barber was a third-round pick (66th overall) in 1997, and Buccaneers LCB Brian Kelly was the 45th selection in '98. The Bears found a gem in Nathan Vasher, a fourth-round pick in 2004, and start '03 second-round pick Charles Tillman on the other side. The Colts didn't start a single first-round pick in the secondary last year, though they reeled in Marlin Jackson in Round One in '05.

"We had to set out and get ourselves some corners that could go hit people," Colts team president Bill Polian said. "We had a ballhawk in Jason David. We needed to be bigger and more physical in the secondary. We drafted those two cornerbacks (Jackson and Kelvin Hayden in '05) because they gave us that."

There might not be a Ronde Barber in the Class of 2006. But Barber advises the new guard of cover-2 cornerbacks to ignore prototypes and to jump in feet first.

"In our defense, our technique is all about patience," he said. "You have to be instinctive, have short-space quicks to get out on a receiver four yards up the field and not give them a vertical release. And there are a lot of little things the 'cover corners' don't necessarily possess. They could all do it. But it's the little things that make you good at playing the cover-2."

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

FAST FACT: MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF NFL TEAMS EMPLOY PRINCIPLES OF THE COVER-2 DEFENSE

CB

#16

David
PITTMAN

NORTHWESTERN ST. (LA.)

HT: 5-10½ WT: 185 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	12/9	29	6	1	41	0	0
2003	12/12	55	7	4	118	1	2
2004	9/9	33	10	5	136	0	0
2005	10/10	36	9	1	3	1	0

UPSIDE: Athletic four-year starter with natural cover ability. Has smooth movement skills and plays light on his feet. Shows good quickness out of his breaks and can recover if he loses position. Has good ball skills. Very tough and will play through pain, enduring a dislocated elbow all season in 2004. Excellent worker. Very motivated.

DOWNSIDE: Has not faced top-end competition and struggled at times matching up with big and fast receivers at the Senior Bowl. Gets out of position by guessing too much. Can do a better job using his hands. Would like to see him play more tough in press man coverage. Needs to be more confident in his ability.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Is similar to Bears 2004 fourth-round pick Nathan Vasher, who also did not have blazing speed and disappointed scouts at the Senior Bowl. However, Vasher has proven to be a ball-hawking Pro Bowl player who can stick with most receivers.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

CB

#17

Anwar
PHILLIPS

PENN STATE

HT: 6-0e WT: 190e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/1	20	2	2	52	0	1
2003	9/2	13	4	0	0	0	0
2004	11/11	41	10	4	47	0	0
2005	12/12	30	10	1	7	0	0

UPSIDE: Good size. Has nice feet. Showed the speed to run with WRs deep in bowl game vs. Ohio State. Has great size and ability to play the ball with his back to it. Shows good ball awareness.

DOWNSIDE: Plays too tall and straight-legged and is not very quick out of breaks. Doesn't bend his knees very well when he changes direction. Too undisciplined in his play and will lose position because his eyes are in the backfield, and he gets caught peeking. Shows some stiffness in his hips. Sits on routes. Does not like to hit and is not very physical. Doesn't play to ability. Not a great competitor. Talks too much. Character is a concern. Lacks confidence.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: May be more naturally gifted than Titans 2004 third-round pick Rich Gardner but still must become more consistent, learn to tackle better and play more disciplined to earn a living in the pros. Has boom-or-bust potential.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

CB

#18

DeMario
MINTER

GEORGIA

HT: 5-11½ WT: 198 40-YARD: 4.47

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	12/0	19	4	0	0	0	0
2003	12/1	16	0	0	0	0	0
2004	12/12	51	10	0	0	0	1
2005	13/13	48	9	2	0	1	0

UPSIDE: Has a good-looking, strong build and plays physical. Has good speed. Nice discipline in zone principles and can get his hands on balls. Plays the run hard and is a solid tackler. Self-made player. Studies the game.

DOWNSIDE: Only has two career interceptions and ball skills are questionable. Shows some tightness in the hips. Does a lot of bailing, squatting and shuffling and is not asked to play a lot of man-off coverage, where he struggles. Too hot and cold. Doesn't make as many plays as he should and has an average to above-average burst. Has stone hands.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Lacks the fluidity of a cover corner and needs to play in a predominantly zone scheme to avoid being exposed. Best chance will come in a defense that plays a lot of cover-2 and allows him to play underneath. Wants to be great and puts in the time to be, but athleticism does not allow it.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

CB

#19

Dee
WEBB [JR.]

FLORIDA

HT: 5-11e WT: 190e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	11/0	11	1	0	0	1	0
2004	12/12	61	10	3	30	0	1
2005	12/12	46	13	1	-3	2	0

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has good size and nice ball skills. Can carry receivers over short distances and plant and drive on the ball. Led the Gators in pass breakups. Recorded two blocked kicks and could bring extra value on special teams.

DOWNSIDE: Talks too much trash and is overconfident in his ability. Got smoked by Tyrone Prothro vs. Alabama and let Florida State receivers beat him deep. Does not have the speed to hang with NFL receivers stride for stride. Free-lances too much and makes some bad decisions by biting on fakes and double-moves. Thinks he is better than he is and still has a long way to go before he is ready.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Should have used another year of school to develop but has enough size and quickness to take away the short passing game and can be effective in the right scheme. Best chance will come in a heavy cover-2 defense.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

CB

#20

Cerrick
McPHEARSON

MARYLAND

HT: 5-9½ WT: 192 40-YARD: 4.28

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/0	16	1	1	14	0	0
2003	2/0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2004	11/6	38	11	0	0	0	0
2005	11/10	37	6	0	0	1	3

UPSIDE: Really looks the part and is very muscular. Has quick-twitch explosiveness and can drive out of his breaks. Has rare straight-line speed to shadow receivers deep and outstanding leaping ability to compensate for his lack of size. Has NFL bloodlines with a father who played in the league. Plays tough and with an attitude and will deliver some big hits.

DOWNSIDE: Relies too much on his natural athletic ability. Footwork is too inconsistent and will take some false steps and get out of position. Does not show great zone awareness or the ball skills to make many plays. Not very instinctive and can be late to react to the ball. Shows some stiffness in his upper and lower body. Not a great competitor.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Press man corner who would look outstanding in a Raiders uniform. Is too fast and too explosive to get too far out of the first day despite his lack of instincts.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

BEST
OF
THE REST

21. **JOHNATHAN JOSEPH (JR.)** | South Carolina
Burner who could have used another year.

22. **CHRIS HAWKINS** | Marshall
North Carolina transfer has speed, lacks size.

23. **ANTONIO MALONE** | Toledo
Tough, feisty, physical corner with upside.

24. **ALTON McCANN** | West Virginia
Pacman Jones' replacement flashed ball skills.

25. **WILLIE ANDREWS** | Baylor
Instinctive, undersized zone corner.

26. **DARRELL HUNTER** | Miami (Ohio)
First-round measurables, free-agent competitor.

27. **JOSH LAY** | Pittsburgh
Has cousin Ty Law's size, but not instincts.

28. **JUSTIN WYATT** | USC
Small, smooth-hipped press corner.

29. **DERRICK MARTIN (JR.)** | Wyoming
Quick and fast, but lacks size and plays small.

30. **REUBEN HOUSTON** | Georgia Tech
Offseason arrest, year away will hurt chances.

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S PROSPECTS

Underclassmen could have a bigger impact on the safety position than any other with the exception of running back, with Ohio State's Donte Whitner, South Carolina's Ko Simpson, USC's Darnell Bing and Purdue's Bernard Pollard all deciding to declare early for the draft.

Generally speaking, there are two types of safeties in the league — in-the-box thumpers who cannot cover and center fielders who cannot hit. Those who can strike and cover generally earn trips to the Pro Bowl every year.

In the past three years, there has been a total of three first-round safeties, and only one has a realistic

shot at coming off the board in the opening round this year. Ohio State's Donte Whitner brings the best of both worlds, with a physical presence inside the box and enough cover skills, closing speed and ball skills that teams are thinking about converting him to cornerback.

The hard-hitters in this draft include Syracuse's Anthony Smith, Nebraska's Daniel Bullocks, Alabama's Roman Harper, Texas Tech's Dwayne Slay and Pollard.

Cover safeties in this draft include Florida State's Pat Watkins and Simpson.

Several safeties could wind up playing other positions, with Tennessee's Jason Allen and North Car-

olina State's Marcus Hudson lining up at cornerback as seniors prior to sustaining injuries, with Allen dislocating his hip early in the season and Hudson tearing a ligament in his knee at the Senior Bowl.

Colorado's Brian Iwuh lined up at linebacker but is being projected as a safety, although in the right scheme, he might not have to move. College safeties who could wind up at linebacker include Georgia's Greg Blue and Pollard.

Good value for safeties can generally be found from the middle rounds down. To be drafted in the first round, a safety must be special — in the mold of Roy Williams, Ed Reed, Troy Polamalu or Sean Taylor — and must either run and cover really well or hit like a linebacker.

2006 CLASS GRADE

B-

#1 **Donte WHITNER [JR.]**
OHIO STATE
HT: 5-10½e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.45e

UPSIDE: Very instinctive ballhawk with great closing speed for a safety and shows the ability to come out of his breaks and make plays on the ball. Always around the ball. Has good strength for his size and plays physical. Has a great passion for the game and plays like a coach on the field. Makes quick reads and is moving with the snap. Knows where teammates fit in the defense and has great football intelligence. Very sudden. Is quick to work off blocks and tosses receivers. Makes big plays. Plays fast, fluid and transitions well enough that he might be able to play cornerback. Good eyes and anticipation, which translate into better range than pure speed. Good hitter and open-field tackler. Does not miss many tackles. Tough and competitive. Plays with great confidence and has a swagger.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have prototypical size. Will take some chances and get beaten in coverage by playing too aggressively. Is not used a lot in man coverage and can hone his cover skills and footwork. Had arthroscopic surgery on his knee.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: If Whitner proves he can handle the transition to cornerback with a good performance in spring workouts, his stock will surge. A more fluid and natural coverage defender than Colts 2003 second-rounder Mike Doss, Whitner is similar in stature and run support. More sudden than Panthers 1997 second-rounder Mike Minter and will play a long time in the league. Despite size limitations, has Pro Bowl potential as either a free or strong safety and might turn out to be a cornerback.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	13/0	22	2	2	12	1	0
2004	10/5	69	1	1	24	0	0
2005	12/12	73	6	2	26	1	0

Renounced final season of eligibility



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ► 1ST ROUND

S

#2

Daniel BULLOCKS

NEBRASKA

HT: 6-0½ WT: 209 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Supports the run very fast and is a reliable, wrap-up tackler. Always around the ball and has a knack for being in the right place at the right time. Plays the ball well in front of him and drives on it to close. Shows good enough speed to get over the top of deep-halves coverage and cover to the sideline. Very strong character. Will put in a lot of work in the weight room and film room to get better. Sacrifices his body to make plays. Competes hard and takes the game seriously. Impressed teams during interviews much more than his brother Josh, whom the Saints drafted 40th overall in the 2005 NFL draft after he declared early. Stood out on special teams at the Senior Bowl, recovering two fumbles in coverage, one for a touchdown — and generally had a very solid, all-around performance.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2002	12/1	16	0	0	0	1	0	
2003	13/9	69	3	2	11	1	1	
2004	11/11	58	9	5	187	1	1	
2005	12/12	83	10	1	12	2	1	

DOWNSIDE: Not very fluid in his backpedal, shows some tightness in his hips and will miss some tackles in the open field. Can misjudge angles to the ball and lose position. Not a violent striker. Can improve in man coverage.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Bigger, stronger, more athletic and has better ball skills than his brother. Stock improved at the Senior Bowl and could give him a chance to be drafted higher than his brother. However, with the safety class being deeper than it was a year ago and Daniel playing the less-desirable SS position at Nebraska, he might not get drafted as high.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND ROUND

S

#3

Anthony SMITH

SYRACUSE

HT: 5-11½ WT: 194 40-YARD: 4.59



UPSIDE: Hits like a ton of bricks and really unloads when he arrives. Tackles well. Has good football intelligence and quickly reads and reacts and is able to locate the football. Lines up over the slot receiver at times in four-receiver sets and can move around well enough in the box to make plays. Is able to get over the top in deep coverage and shows nice ball skills. Will highpoint and adjust to the ball in the air. Finished second in the nation in interceptions as a senior. Vocal leader. Really studies the game and it shows in his reactions. Is smart and will get defenders lined up. Very tough and durable and has not missed any time. Plays with passion.

DOWNSIDE: Not very big and has a thin lower body. Scouts would like to see a greater sense of urgency supporting the run. Does not have great playing speed or quite the range teams want in order to interchange their safeties.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Plays much bigger than his size and hits like a linebacker at 194 pounds. Some teams are scared that his joints will not be able to withstand the force of his violent collisions at increased speeds in the NFL, but the only injury he has suffered in college was a broken right hand, and he was tough enough to play through it. Is a better cover safety than Jaguars 1998 first-rounder Donovan Darius, although he is not as big and strong. More similar to Bengals 2004 second-round pick (No. 56) Madiou Williams, and could keep receivers on the lookout when crossing the middle.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2002	11/0	31	1	0	0	0	1	
2003	12/12	106	4	5	37	1	1	
2004	12/12	85	4	3	62	1	0	
2005	11/11	71	8	6	73	2	3	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND ROUND

SS

#4

Darnell BING [JR.]

USC

HT: 5-11e WT: 220e 40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Has good size and will drop the hammer. Shows pretty good foot speed and moves well in a straight line. Will play the ball in the air and has a knack for being in opportune spots. When he is healthy, he can deliver some big hits and has a presence to make receivers more aware of the sound of his footsteps. Can turn, plant and drive on the ball. Has been used as a returner on kickoffs and returned a kick 68 yards vs. Washington. Has special-teams ability.

DOWNSIDE: Disappears in stretches and does not make a lot of plays. Looks like he is trying to avoid contact in some games and tiptoeing on blitzes. Does not have great range to get over the top and can be challenged by elite speed. Not very smart and academic troubles might have hastened his exit at USC. Lacks focus. Needs to play with more discipline and take care of his responsibilities. Does not have great ball skills. Has had shoulder surgery and his durability is a minor concern.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2003	13/13	69	5	2	34	0	1	
2004	12/10	63	7	2	8	2	0	
2005	12/12	50	6	4	119	1	0	

Renounced final season of eligibility

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could have used another year in school but has struggled with academics and was ready to stop having to attend classes and concentrate on football full-time. His best year came as a redshirt freshman, and he has not played as physical since having surgery on his shoulder. Will likely be overdrafted because of his good measurables. Is more football smart than classroom smart and could use some hard coaching to maximize his potential.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND-3RD ROUND

FS

#5

Ko SIMPSON [SOPH.]

SOUTH CAROLINA

HT: 6-0e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Can run with the slot and shows good speed to close and cover ground. Has good anticipation and gets his hands on a lot of balls. Very productive. Plays the cutback and makes a lot of tackles in the last line of defense. Is tougher than he looks. Can play free or strong safety and could be a good special-teams player.

DOWNSIDE: Too thin and wiry. Not a blow-up tackler and will go low. Not overly aggressive. Misses too many tackles and needs to do a better job getting his helmet across the body and wrapping up. Gets caught peeking inside and gets tied up by blocks downfield if he cannot first beat them with his quickness. Too easily knocked off his path as a blitzer. Lacks top-end burst and explosion. Plays too upright and tall. Grab-and-reach tackler. Not very smart and is still a bit immature.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Stepped into the starting lineup as a greyshirt freshman and made an immediate impact, showing nice range, great hands and good ball skills. However, he regressed as a sophomore, playing the rover position, and did not finish like he did the year before, letting some easy interceptions bounce off his chest and missing more tackles. Could have used another year in school to develop physically and get stronger, but ability to play center field still will attract early interest. If teams concentrate on what he did as SEC Freshman of the Year at his more natural free safety position, he could be a solid second-rounder. Has upside.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2004	11/11	61	6	6	94	0	3	
2005	12/12	103	9	1	16	0	2	

Renounced final two seasons of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 2ND-3RD ROUND



BERNARD POLLARD | PURDUE

SS

#6

Bernard

POLLARD [JR.]

PURDUE

HT: 6-1½

WT: 225e

40-YARD: 4.55e



UPSIDE: Has outstanding size. Can be a physical and explosive tackler. Gets downhill fast and packs some punch. Provides good inside-outside run support. Usually gets an edge and can find his way into the backfield on blitzes.

DOWNSIDE: Did not make as many plays as a junior as he did as a sophomore and almost looked like he was playing not to get hurt early in the year by avoiding contact. Does not have great range to play deep-halves coverage. Questions about his character could be an issue because of his inability to get along with the coaching staff, including a three-day suspension during two-a-days for responding confrontationally to Joe Tiller's tough love. Too inconsistent as a tackler. He is not a thumper and generally hits and works his way down to the ankles. Aggressiveness can be used against him and exploited by play-action. Not a true blow-up tackler who will run through contact. Has questionable cover skills. Too straight-linish. Ego could need some massaging.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Big banger who has enough size to add some bulk and project to weak-side linebacker in a cover-2 scheme. Is physical and good enough of a hitter to transition down in the box. Old-school coaches might not want anything to do with him, but character will be a lesser issue for many teams such as the Raiders, Bengals and Cardinals.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2003	13/12	66	1	0	0	0	1
2004	12/12	96	5	1	19	2	0
2005	11/11	92	3	3	0	0	1

Renounced final season of eligibility

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

DAVID DUROCHNIK / SPORTSPICS

SS

#7

Roman

HARPER

ALABAMA

HT: 6-0

WT: 196

40-YARD: 4.62



UPSIDE: Plays so smart and instinctively that he plays faster than he times and puts himself in good position to make a lot of plays. Coach's son. Very decisive and quick to react. Leverages the run. Plays off blocks and is a secure, wrap-up tackler who will run the alley and strike. Attacks the line of scrimmage and jars the ball on contact. Tough. Makes big plays in crucial situations. Takes sharp angles to the ball. Likes to be physical and makes some big hits. Shows nice zone awareness and plays the ball well in front of him. Disruptive blitz. Contributes on special teams. Will work to improve. Has a quiet confidence and is a tremendous competitor. Has been very durable for a three-year starter. Graduated in December.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks great range to play deep-halves coverage and doesn't cover a lot of ground from the middle of the field to the sideline. Has some tightness in his hips and does not show top-end burst. Will rise in his pedal and can be slow to transition out of his breaks.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Will likely be a mid-round selection and slip in the draft because he is not a top-of-the-line athlete with great measurables. However, Harper's instincts are very good and could give him a chance to be the Erik Coleman or Kerry Rhodes of this year's draft. Will be a steal if he falls to the second day. His cover skills never will be great, but his ball skills and toughness help compensate in coverage and he can be a force vs. the run.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	12/1	42	2	0	0	2	1
2003	13/13	114	4	1	0	0	1
2004	12/12	77	4	3	26	1	2
2005	12/12	69	1	1	50	2	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

FS

#8

Pat

WATKINS

FLORIDA STATE

HT: 6-4½

WT: 202

40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Takes long strides and eats up a lot of ground with big strides. Will test very well athletically. Has good leaping ability and can make plays on the ball. Shows good range to defend the back half and is athletic enough to recover if he gets out of position. Has fluid hips and nice feet. Learns quickly and comes from a highly intelligent family with parents who own doctorates.

DOWNSIDE: Struggles in man coverage and gets burned on post-corner routes. Doesn't play fast. Too long-legged and leggy and can't maneuver or change direction very easily. Will come in to tackle with his back and hips turned sideways. Will go fetal at times and cradle up before contact. Does not like to run the alley. Turns down some big hits with some blow-up opportunities to knock out receivers and instead looks for teammates to arrive first. Very skinny and needs to spend some more time in the weight room. Not an impact player. Plays too nonchalantly without a sense of urgency. Needs to learn how to flip the switch between the white lines and play more aggressively.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Regressed from his junior to senior season and saw a reduction in his playing time early in the year, when he began splitting time with an underclassman. Watkins did play better late in the season, however, and showed fairly well at the Senior Bowl. Could be a steal or a perennial tease. His size and range could earn him a starting job in the NFL if he can stay focused.

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	11/0	10	0	0	0	1	0
2003	13/1	62	8	3	-8	1	1
2004	12/12	56	10	4	63	2	2
2005	13/13	77	5	3	34	1	0

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

THE PFW PROTOTYPE S

The most desirable traits PFW seeks in S prospects

Free safeties are generally more athletic and have greater range to play center field, while strong safeties need to be more physical, matching up with tight ends and supporting the run. With safeties becoming more interchangeable and teams using more three-wide sets, the ideal safety has all of the following traits:

FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE

Free safeties must be able to make coverage calls and quarterback the secondary when offenses are in motion. With the freedom to roam deep in some coverages, they must know where everyone is fitting in front of them, what zones will be occupied and what areas need the most help. They read the QB's eyes and know where the ball is going before it leaves his hand. Ronnie Lott was one of the smartest safeties to play the game and showed a penchant for disguising coverages and baiting quarterbacks.

INSTINCTS

Able to anticipate and quickly diagnose the run or pass, the best safeties in football today, such as Ed Reed and Mike Brown, intuitively know where their opponent is trying to go and beat them to the spot, whether forcing contain or picking off a pass. They know where the ball is at all times.

INTIMIDATING PRESENCE

The best safeties to play the game were lights-out hitters with a presence responsible for a lot of dropped balls. Kenny Easley, Ronnie Lott, Jack Tatum — they delivered their share of slobber-knockers and made receivers fearful of crossing the middle. All were big, first-round talents, but even small, unheralded hitters like Doug Plank, Chuck Cecil and Pat Tillman could intimidate and alter inside routes. Sean Taylor is the best today and hits like a linebacker.

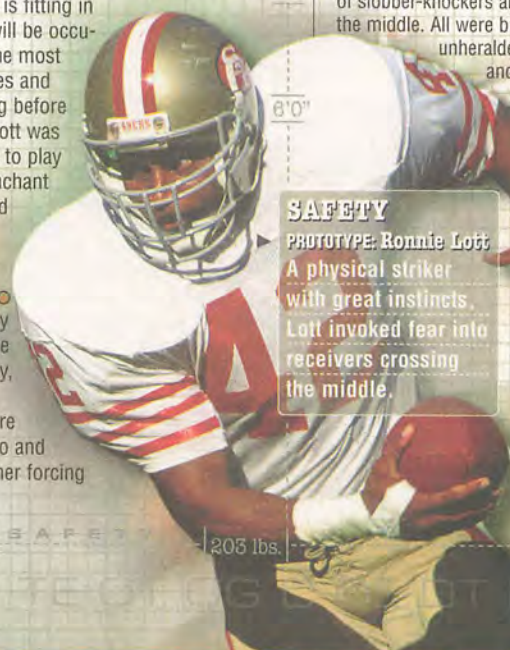
RANGE

Being able to sink into deep-halves coverage and adjust to vertical receivers rolling down the hash and the sideline, great safeties cover a lot of ground quickly while the ball is in the air and take direct angles to the ball. They can handle receivers one-on-one in the slot and track down backs sideline to sideline.

— N.N.

SAFETY

PROTOTYPE: Ronnie Lott
A physical striker with great instincts. Lott invoked fear into receivers crossing the middle.



QB RB WR TE OL LB CB S

ICON SPORTS PHOTOS

FS
#9 **Jason ALLEN**
TENNESSEE
HT: 6-0e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.5e



UPSIDE: Has big, strong legs and is well put together. Plays smart and is technique-sound. Very competitive. Can press and squat on short routes while keeping an eye on the quarterback and reading his drops. Diligent worker. Has played corner and safety, and his versatility brings added value to the secondary. Graduated and is working on master's degree.

DOWNSIDE: Is coming off a very serious hip injury and had a shoulder injury that shows his body is not cut out for the pounding that comes at the safety position. Gets exposed in one-on-one matchups in practice and gives up too much separation. Not very physical and is neither a big hitter nor an explosive tackler. Got run over by Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams as a junior and struggled bringing down elite NFL runners. Feet go dead on contact and will miss some tackles because of it. Had a summer internship with an agent and acts as if he has all the answers, which rubs some people the wrong way.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Better playing man than off coverage and could be able to stick as a cover-2 corner and bring added versatility for some teams. However, not even Nostradamus could predict where Allen will be drafted until he goes through medical examinations and is given a clean bill of health after suffering a potentially career-threatening dislocated hip injury early in the fall. Has good size for a corner and average size for a safety.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2002	13/0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
2003	13/8	57	11	2	20	1	0	
2004	13/13	123	5	2	4	3	1	
2005	5/5	35	2	0	0	1	0	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

SS
#10 **Brian IWUH**
COLORADO
HT: 5-11½ WT: 226 40-YARD: 4.6e



UPSIDE: Tough, physical and aggressive. Plays with an attitude. Is quick to fill and strike and hits with force. Plays hard all the time and doesn't take any plays off. Has strong hands to fend off and control blockers. Shows good instincts. Times up blitzes well and is quick to sniff out the screen. Reads his keys fast and is quick to make zone drops. Drops some timber on crossing routes and uses his hands to re-route receivers in his area. Can play the ball well in front of him. Contributes in all phases of special teams. Busts his tail in the weight room and it shows in his physique.

DOWNSIDE: Is not a gifted open-field athlete and could struggle matching up with receivers in man coverage. Does not transition very easily vs. quickness. Does not have great strength at the point to take on big blockers at linebacker. A tweener who lacks great size for an LB and the fluidity teams like at safety.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Entered college as a safety and moved to linebacker as a junior after bulking up and showing the strength more suited for the position. Scouts were disappointed that he did not play safety at the Senior Bowl, but Iwuh might not have to make the move with the way he was laying the lumber. Could be drafted earlier than projected as an outside linebacker in a one-gap scheme similar to the one used by the Colts or Bears or fit as an intimidating, in-the-box presence at safety.

BY THE NUMBERS								
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR	
2002	4/2	21	1	0	0	0	0	
2003	10/4	32	1	0	0	1	1	
2004	13/13	101	2	1	37	0	1	
2005	13/13	70	1	0	0	0	2	

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

SS

#11

Dwayne
SLAY

TEXAS TECH

HT: 6-3½ WT: 208 40-YARD: 4.65e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TCL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	11/0	23	1	2	33	0	0
2005	12/12	114	1	1	26	8	0

UPSIDE: Really looks the part and brings a physical presence to the field. Has outstanding size and strikes fear in receivers crossing the middle. Very tough. Plays with a linebacker's mentality. Craves the knock-out punch and delivers some big booms. Can play off and ditch blockers with his hands. Is surprisingly agile for his size and able to cover the deep middle. Plays smart. Is excellent on special teams and should excel as a kamikaze on kickoff coverage.

DOWNSIDE: Has some athletic limitations and will struggle defending quickness. Lacks long and catch-up speed. Becomes more vulnerable the farther away from the line of scrimmage he has to play. Will bite hard on play-action and let the receiver run by him. Can improve his strength.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Big, strong, aggressive hitter who was highly recruited out of high school and wound up spending two years in junior college before transferring to Tech and making an impact.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND

SS

#12

Greg
BLUE

GEORGIA

HT: 6-2½ WT: 211 40-YARD: 4.42

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TCL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	14/0	42	1	0	0	0	0
2003	10/3	42	3	0	0	0	0
2004	12/12	80	3	0	0	3	1
2005	13/13	96	5	2	0	1	1

UPSIDE: Really looks the part. Comes downhill hard and will strike. Strong, wrap-up tackler. Has strong hands and can bring down a ballcarrier by his shirt.

DOWNSIDE: Slow to react to what's in front of him in space and might need to be covered up where he does not ever have to man cover. Not very quick to come off spots in deep-thirds coverage. Doesn't get his hands on many balls. Has not shown he can be trusted in coverage and could have a difficult time earning a DB coach's trust. Does not play with a sense of urgency. Consistently gives up big plays. Has too many missed tackles and lacks instincts.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could turn out to be a better weak-side linebacker than safety. Does not hit or run the alley the same way as Thomas Davis and is not as good in run support, although both have issues in man coverage. Best chance could come by bulking up and moving inside. Will get over-drafted because of intriguing measurables.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 3RD-4TH ROUND



DAVID DUROCHUK / SPORTICS

GREG BLUE | GEORGIA

FS

#13

Marcus
HUDSON

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

HT: 6-0½ WT: 197 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TCL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2001	11/5	52	5	1	100	0	1
2002	14/12	36	3	3	5	0	0
2004	11/6	70	6	2	61	2	0
2005	12/12	56	11	2	28	0	1

UPSIDE: Plays physical and aggressive and likes to hit. Gets his hands on receivers to knock them off their route and has enough size to match up with tight ends. Reliable tackler in the open field. Can be effective blitzing off the edge.

DOWNSIDE: Not an explosive hitter. Struggles in off coverage and can be late to transition. Plays too tall and uses a shuffle technique. Can show more awareness and do a better job seeing the quarterback's drops and reading routes. Immature, not very smart and not a great worker. Tore ligament in his knee at the Senior Bowl.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Good, not great athlete who stood out as a freshman cornerback. Forced to sit out in '03 and moved to free safety as a junior. Returned to corner as a senior and excelled in press man coverage. Hudson is best playing the run; if things are kept simple and he is not asked to make the calls, he has the size, athletic ability and enough speed to play safety.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

SS

#14

Scott
WARE

USC

HT: 6-2e WT: 220e 40-YARD: 4.65e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TCL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	JUCO	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	7/3	16	1	0	0	0	0
2005	13/13	51	2	1	30	3	1

UPSIDE: Plays smart and is tough. Can pack a punch and be an intimidating presence. Has good size for a safety. Shows nice instincts and awareness in zones. Can contribute on special teams and could be able to play nickel linebacker on passing downs.

DOWNSIDE: Lacks foot quickness, back-end speed and man-cover skills for the safety position. Does not show great range and athleticism. A better hitter than tackler and will fall off tackles. Takes some bad angles to the ball and misjudges it in the air. Does not have great ball skills. Too straight-linish and shows some stiffness changing direction.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A collision safety who plays faster than he times. Has the chance to become a solid NFL backup and could make a living on special teams. Some teams might be tempted to bulk him up and try him at weak-side or nickel linebacker.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 4TH-5TH ROUND

SS

#15

Dawan
LANDRY

GEORGIA TECH

HT: 6-0½ WT: 217 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR	GP/GS	TCL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/0	8	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/13	85	2	2	26	0	2
2004	12/12	81	2	1	0	1	0
2005	12/12	76	5	4	12	0	2

UPSIDE: Looks the part with good size and smarts. Reliable tackler. Shows enough athletic ability to play either safety position. Great hands. Good leaping ability and fine ball skills. Shows the range to get over the top. Very diligent and business-like. Plays with great effort and will hustle and pursue hard to the ball. Reacts quickly to what's in front of him in zone coverage.

DOWNSIDE: Will let receivers get behind him and does not show great closing speed to recover. Takes some bad angles and gets out of position. Rises in his pedal and loses some speed out of his transitions. Would expect him to play more physical against the run for his size.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Tries to do too much with an average supporting cast and as a result is not very consistent and gives up more plays than he should. Will work out well, and his stock could elevate because of his potential.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#16 Calvin LOWRY
PENN STATE
HT: 6-0e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	4/2	14	1	1	0	0	0
2003	12/1	20	0	0	0	0	0
2004	11/11	50	1	4	74	0	4
2005	12/12	79	2	4	36	1	0

UPSIDE: Smart and instinctive and makes quick reads and good decisions. Shows a nice short-area burst and gets to the ball. Will compete for the ball and attack it at its highest point. Is able to cover deep from the hash to the sideline and is able to stay as deep as the deepest. Has solid instincts. Supports the run hard. Has good hands and experience in the return game to contribute.

DOWNSIDE: Not an elite athlete and has played very little man coverage. Can be a more secure tackler and do a better job wrapping in the open field. Will play out of control and miss some tackles by filling too fast. Lacks bulk, is not very strong and gets knocked backward if he does not have a full head of steam behind him. Limited run-after-the-catch ability as a returner.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Good football player who shows up all over the field and could make a solid contribution on special teams. With continued physical development, could turn out to be a dependable backup.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#17 Jarrod PAGE
UCLA
HT: 6-2e WT: 220e 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/10	43	6	2	43	0	0
2003	12/12	55	3	3	53	0	2
2004	12/12	79	7	3	20	2	0
2005	12/12	72	7	1	0	2	2

UPSIDE: Has great size and gets downhill fast. Shows nice awareness in zone coverage and plants and drives on the ball. Has good hands and hand-eye coordination. Has some natural athleticism and learns quickly.

DOWNSIDE: Does not have great catch-up speed or burst to close. Ball skills are suspect. Is not quick out of his pedal and too often is slow to transition and turn his hips. Takes some bad angles and misses a lot of tackles, especially in the open field. Not an explosive hitter. Would expect to play bigger and more physical than he does for his size.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Leaky tackler who misses way too many. Has missed off-season conditioning to play minor-league baseball throughout his career and his physical development is not where it could be. Could flirt with a return to baseball if football does not pan out, which could scare some teams. A four-year starter who is best moving forward and could have a chance as an in-the-box safety.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 5TH-6TH ROUND

#18 Chris HARRELL
PENN STATE
HT: 6-1½ WT: 215e 40-YARD: 4.55e

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2001	11/0	6	0	0	0	0	0
2002	13/11	85	2	1	0	2	1
2003	12/7	49	0	0	0	0	0
2005	12/12	88	4	1	16	0	0

UPSIDE: Good-sized, well-built, physical, lights-out hitter. Shows enough movement skills to play the top half. Plays the run aggressively and looks to strike. Quick learner who works hard and takes the game seriously. Tough and aggressive. Shows good awareness in zone coverage and reacts quickly to the ball.

DOWNSIDE: Sat out the 2004 season with a hairline fracture in his neck that could make it difficult to receive medical clearance from all 32 teams. Does not have great range. Can be overaggressive, bite on play-action and miss some tackles because he does not break down and instead looks for the big hit. Man-cover skills are suspect and he could struggle matching up with NFL receivers.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: His neck injury will scare away many teams, but he worked very hard to recover from it and a team who is willing to take a chance on him late could wind up with a solid player.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

#19 Nate SALLEY
OHIO STATE
HT: 6-1½ WT: 218 40-YARD: 4.6e

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	14/0	6	0	0	0	0	0
2003	13/11	77	5	0	0	0	0
2004	10/8	55	4	2	0	0	0
2005	12/12	43	6	1	0	1	0

UPSIDE: Good-sized, strong, three-year starter in the Big Ten. Competes hard and gives good effort. Tough and can be physical in supporting the run.

DOWNSIDE: Not a great coverage defender and has limited range. Plays so deep and gives up so much ground against receivers that it is difficult to see him on the screen from the wide angle at times. Plays 15 yards off the ball and the farther he has to go, the more he struggles. Does not take good angles, as evidenced on Texas' game-winning TD toss in the endzone last September. Ball skills are average. Not a sure tackler and struggles in the open field. Not a great finisher. Is long-legged and shows little burst and acceleration out of his turns. Work habits could be better.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Does not stand out in any area and will have a difficult time earning a coach's trust with how often he is out of position and gets beat. Will have to make it on special teams.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

#20 Charlie PEPRAH
ALABAMA
HT: 5-10½ WT: 203 40-YARD: 4.56

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP/GS	TKL	PBU	INT	YARDS	FF	FR
2002	13/8	47	4	4	90	1	1
2003	13/13	69	19	4	93	1	2
2004	12/12	51	2	1	31	0	0
2005	12/12	43	5	0	0	2	2

UPSIDE: Four-year starter with corner-back experience. Shows nice short-area burst and quickness. Plays with discipline and takes care of his responsibilities. Very smart and graduated in five years with a master's degree. Works hard and will run the alley to support.

DOWNSIDE: Everything needs to be in front of him to make any plays and has limited range in deep-halves coverage. Not superfast and looks tight in the hips. Has limited downfield ball skills and can be late to arrive. Goes for the ankles and misses more tackles than he should. Not physical. Not a playmaker. Almost looks too cerebral, like he is thinking too much instead of intuitively reacting to what he sees. Can improve as an open-field tackler.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Not as big or instinctive as teammate Roman Harper and doesn't make as many plays. Best year came as a sophomore at corner but is not very sudden. Would have to fit in a cover-2 scheme.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION ▶ 6TH-7TH ROUND

BEST OF THE REST

21. **JAHMILE ADDAE** | West Virginia
Physical hitter whose best year came as soph.
22. **DARRELL BROOKS** | Arizona
Could get drafted based on junior season.
23. **REED DOUGHTY** | Northern Colorado
Tough overachiever plays fast and physical.
24. **TYLER EVERETT** | Ohio State
Moved to CB as senior but has chance at SS.
25. **JARVIS HERRING** | Florida
Tough, in-the-box safety and emotional leader.
26. **ANTOINE BETHEA** | Howard
Undersized, but athletic and aggressive hitter.
27. **VINCENT MEEKS** | Texas Tech
Strong, alley-running, in-the-box safety.
28. **ERIC SMITH** | Michigan State
Has a chance in the box, on special teams.
29. **MARCUS DEMPS** | San Diego State
Not as instinctive as his brother Will (Ravens).
30. **TYRONE CULVER** | Fresno State
Has size and intriguing athletic ability.

RS/K/P

This year's specialist group includes some standout returners, most of them coming from the junior class, but it does not feature any front-line punters or kickers who will be drafted on the first day and be expected to start immediately.

Devin Hester of Miami (Fla.), UCLA's Maurice Drew and Colorado's Jeremy Bloom — all underclassmen — have shown they can contribute as returners. Hester has rare speed, Drew has exceptional balance and Bloom has cat-like quickness.

However, they will have to make it primarily as returners, with Hester lacking the intelligence to find a home position, Drew being too short to be more than a change-of-pace back and Bloom lacking the size to be more than a No. 3 receiver.

Wake Forest P Ryan Plackemeier and Arizona's Danny Baugher have the strongest legs in this class. Ohio State's Josh Huston re-emerged from the shadow of last year's top kicker, Mike Nugent, to become a solid kicker.

RETURN SPECIALISTS

RS

#1 **Devin HESTER** [JR.]
MIAMI (Fla.)
HT: 5-10e WT: 185e 40-YARD: 4.3e

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	
2003	18	517	28.7	1	0	0	0	0	0
2004	15	389	25.9	1	19	326	17.2	3	
2005	7	113	16.1	0	22	312	14.2	1	

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Has exceptional speed and burst to accelerate, change gears and elude tacklers. Can be very effective on reverses. Has natural hands and can return kicks as well as punts.

DOWNSIDE: Makes some questionable decisions to field punts inside the 10-yard-line and does not exercise sound judgment. Digesting a playbook has been an issue. Has been injury-prone.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: A gamebreaking returner without a position, Hester's primary value will have to come in the return game. Might be able to contribute as a running back/receiver if scheme is kept simple. Should have stayed in school and tried to establish himself as a featured back or receiver.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 2ND ROUND

RS

#2 **Maurice DREW** [JR.]
UCLA
HT: 5-6e WT: 205e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	
2003	20	533	26.6	2	0	0	0	0	0
2004	7	185	26.4	0	10	152	15.2	1	
2005	5	69	13.8	0	15	427	28.5	3	

Renounced final season of eligibility

UPSIDE: Runs very strong and low to the ground with excellent balance and a very low center of gravity. Shows great



DEVIN HESTER | MIAMI (Fla.)

vision and is able to use his size to his advantage to hide behind blockers and squirt through holes. Shows a nice traffic burst and can power through arm tackles. Great work habits and very passionate about the game.

DOWNSIDE: Is undersized and has been somewhat injury-prone. Can be caught from behind and does not have true break-away speed.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Brings most value as a punt returner and could contribute as a solid change-of-pace back.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 3TH-4TH ROUND

RS

#3 **Brandon WILLIAMS**
WISCONSIN
HT: 5-9e WT: 175e 40-YARD: 4.5e

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	
2002	32	670	20.9	0	5	36	7.2	0	
2003	29	626	21.6	0	1	22	22.0	0	
2004	23	437	19.0	0	0	0	0	0	
2005	22	616	28.0	0	26	380	14.6	2	

UPSIDE: Has good hands, concentration and short-area burst to make the first wave of tacklers miss.

DOWNSIDE: Is undersized and has battled some injuries. Won't break many tackles and goes down too easily on contact.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Better receiver than returner who could compete for a No. 3 WR spot and bring added value as a returner.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 3TH-4TH ROUND

RS

#4 **Jeremy BLOOM** [SOPH.]
ex-COLORADO
HT: 5-9e WT: 180e 40-YARD: 4.45e

BY THE NUMBERS									
YEAR	KOR	YDS	AVG	TD	PR	YDS	AVG	TD	
2002	1	38	38.0	0	20	336	16.8	2	
2003	24	589	24.5	1	24	289	12.0	0	

UPSIDE: Is an Olympic athlete who maintains peak physical condition and is very disciplined in his approach. Showed very good quickness to elude and good run instincts, vision and balance. Good hands and hand-eye coordination.

DOWNSIDE: Has not played football in two years. Has a big ego and may need extra massaging. Is undersized. Has skiing interests and must fully commit himself to the game.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Could make it as a punt returner and Brandon Stokley-type slot receiver with full commitment.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 4TH-5TH ROUND

PROSPECTS

PLACEKICKERS

PK

#1

Josh

HUSTON

OHIO STATE

HT: 6-1½ WT: 195e 40-YARD: 4.9e

UPSIDE: Set school record with 49 touchbacks on 70 kickoffs. Good snap and pop to elevate. Automatic on 16 tries inside 40.

DOWNSIDE: More inconsistent than you'd like. Missed three longest attempts between 49-50 yards.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Sixth-year senior was injured and beaten out by Mike Nugent early in career but matured and had solid senior year. Soccer-style, right-footed kicker with range inside 45 yards and the leg strength to handle kickoffs.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 6TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA	
2001	11	3	10	44	9	9	
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2004	2	0	0	0	0	0	
2005	12	22	28	47	44	45	

PK

#2

Steve

GOSTKOWSKI

MEMPHIS

HT: 6-0½ WT: 214 40-YARD: 5.0e

UPSIDE: Finished career as NCAA's active career leader in field goals (70) and point-after tries (159). Was a perfect 9-of-9 on field-goal attempts beyond 40 yards as a senior, including three from beyond 50. Ball takes good rise off toe.

DOWNSIDE: Also pitches for the Memphis baseball team and has spent all of his time in the offseason away from football.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Has shown very consistent deep accuracy and could be a reliable weapon inside 50 yards.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 7TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA	
2002	12	9	14	50	32	37	
2003	13	19	29	45	44	44	
2004	12	20	24	49	48	49	
2005	12	22	25	53	35	35	

PK

#3

Connor

HUGHES

VIRGINIA

HT: 5-10e WT: 175e 40-YARD: 4.8e

UPSIDE: Has the leg strength to convert from 55 yards and is 5-of-8 beyond 50 in his career. Converted all 23 kicks inside 30 yards throughout his career.

DOWNSIDE: Had two blocks and was inconsistent as a junior.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Three-and-a-half-year starter who has converted some clutch kicks in his career and won games. His big leg allows him to hit from inside 55 yards.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 7TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA	
2002	5	5	6	47	16	17	
2003	13	23	25	53	40	40	
2004	12	17	24	50	42	45	
2005	12	21	24	50	36	36	

PUNTERS

P

#1

Ryan

PLACKEMEIER

WAKE FOREST

HT: 6-3e WT: 249e 40-YARD: 5.2e

UPSIDE: Has good leg strength, and the ball comes off his foot fast. Has great hands. Good get-off time. Is smooth with his approach. Good leg drive and hang time.

DOWNSIDE: Too inconsistent and struggles to directional kick.

THE WAY WE SEE

IT: Has led Atlantic Coast Conference in punting the past three years. Right-footed, two-step punter with the strongest leg in the draft. Should get selected in late rounds and make a team.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 6TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GS	PUNTS	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20	BLK
2002	10	32	1383	43.2	62	2	0
2003	12	57	2600	45.6	67	11	1
2004	11	64	2809	43.9	66	17	1
2005	11	67	3165	47.2	82	20	0

P

#2

Danny

BAUGHER

ARIZONA

HT: 5-10e WT: 200e 40-YARD: 4.7e

UPSIDE: High school linebacker and multi-sport athlete. Has great leg strength and led the nation in punting prior to injury.

DOWNSIDE: Tore ACL in his right knee after Oregon's Haloti Ngata fell on his leg in late October.

THE WAY WE SEE

IT: Hoping to be healed in time for training camp after rehabilitating for five months. Whether leg strength will remain the same is a question, and the risk involved could keep teams from spending a pick on him.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 6TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GS	PUNTS	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20	BLK
2002	11	38	1434	37.7	56	5	1
2003	12	76	3238	42.6	62	14	2
2004	11	74	3046	41.2	60	15	0
2005	11	37	1758	47.5	76	11	0

P

#3

Steve

WEATHERFORD

ILLINOIS

HT: 5-11½ WT: 191 40-YARD: 4.7e

UPSIDE: Has handled kickoffs and can be an emergency placekicker. Four-sport athlete in high school. Has kicked in cold weather.

DOWNSIDE: Ball didn't explode off his foot as a senior like it did earlier in his career. Kicks some off side of his foot.

THE WAY WE SEE

IT: New coaching staff tried changing his approach from three-step to two-step, and his mechanics suffered.

2006 DRAFT PROJECTION • 7TH ROUND-FREE AGENT

BY THE NUMBERS							
YEAR	GS	PUNTS	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20	BLK
2002	5	23	912	39.7	57	4	0
2003	10	46	2045	44.5	66	8	0
2004	11	57	2589	45.4	79	23	0
2005	11	67	2856	42.6	70	16	0

ARIZONA CARDINALS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 5-11

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

Under added pressure with the Cardinals set to move into a sparkling new \$370 million, state-of-the-art stadium next season, head coach Dennis Green can be expected to pursue fresh talent aggressively in the draft and free agency in his third season at the helm. Green has a solid young nucleus to work with on both sides of the ball — Arizona ranked eighth in both total offense and total defense in 2005 — but the Cardinals' league-worst ground game must improve significantly. Green has shown that he's not afraid to throw rookies into the fire right away. Two years ago, the team's first four picks all were starting and performing effectively by season's end. One area the Cardinals definitely don't have to worry about is wide receiver, with Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin having established themselves as arguably the league's most potent pass-catching duo.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Arizona Cardinals' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 OL Steve Loney, the Cardinals' third different OL coach since Green arrived in 2004, thinks enough talent is in place to put together a respectable unit, particularly at tackle, where massive Leonard Davis and Oliver Ross start. But, at the very least, more depth at every position on the line is a must. The team's guards are ordinary at best, although second-year player Elton Brown has some potential if he can stay healthy. C-OG Alex Stepanovich is brittle, and C Nick Leckey is undersized. Rampant personnel shuffling because of injury was cited as the



LenDALE WHITE | USC

The **HOT** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR ARIZONA'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OLT WINSTON JUSTICE	USC
2. RB LenDALE WHITE	USC
3. DT CLAUDE WROTEN	LSU
4. DE TAMBA HALL	Penn State
5. DT RODRIQUE WRIGHT	Texas
6. OG-OT CHARLES SPENCER	Pittsburgh
7. FS ROMAN HARPER	Alabama
8. QB OMAR JACOBS	Bowling Green
9. C-OG JASON SPITZ	Louisville
10. DE RAY EDWARDS	Purdue
11. RB WENDELL MATHIS	Fresno State
12. QB MARCUS VICK	Virginia Tech

major reason for the team's rushing woes in '05. The Cardinals are more likely to look for offensive linemen in free agency than in the draft.

2 RB The numbers don't lie. The Cardinals didn't score a rushing TD until Week 10 last season and finished with a league-low two scores on the ground. Green continues to insist J.J. Arrington, who frequently looked tentative in his rookie campaign, is capable of being the same kind of prolific performer at the pro level that he was at Cal, where he led the nation in rushing two years ago. But a physical, north-south runner to complement Arrington and add some badly

needed punch inside the red zone would help. Veteran RB Marcel Shipp was just so-so and could be on his last legs.

3 FS Aging Robert Griffith is no longer capable of providing the consistent coverage skills downfield that would enable the Cardinals to regularly play Pro Bowl SS Adrian Wilson closer to the line of scrimmage, where he excelled and occasionally dominated as the 2005 campaign wore on. A safety with solid run-support skills certainly wouldn't hurt; the Cardinals frequently were burned for big gains when they overpursued, and their defensive backs' tackling often left a lot to be desired. More depth at cornerback is also needed, but free safety is a bigger priority.

4 DL As is the case on the O-line, across-the-board depth is a major need. Four of the team's top six defensive linemen heading into the season, including 2004 Pro Bowl DE Bertrand Berry, were lost to injuries. The lack of a consistent pass rush, particularly after Berry went down, put extra pressure on the Arizona secondary, especially on the corners. Reserve DT Kenny King has had trouble staying healthy the last two seasons, and former first-round DE Calvin Pace is a longshot to return after suffering a season-ending arm injury wrestling with a buddy during the Cardinals' bye week.

5 QB The Cardinals were expected to make re-signing Kurt Warner a top priority after he rebounded from a groin injury to ignite the team's top-ranked passing attack. But Warner turns 35 in June, and backup Josh McCown is expected to attract a lot of interest on the free-agent market and probably move on to greener pastures. The Cardinals need another QB behind Warner besides John Navarre, who has a cannon for an arm but zero touch and limited mobility, and Rohan Davey.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

Green makes the final call on Draft Day decisions with input from vice president of football operations Rod Graves. Vice president and general counsel Michael Bidwill, who has taken over for team president Bill Bidwill as the team's top voice at the ownership level, also has a say in the team's draft selections. Under Green, the Cardinals seldom have wavered from the draft boards they've had in place before the draft.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 ARIZONA CARDINALS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	8	Antrel Rolle	CB	Miami (Fla.)	Missed most of season with knee injury	5/4
2	44	J.J. Arrington	RB	California	Verdict very much still out on him as featured back	15/5
3	75	Eric Green	CB	Virginia Tech	Smart, confident keeper, but he must stay healthy	12/5
3	95	Darryl Blackstock	OLB	Virginia	Underachieved; needs to improve in '06	14/1
4	111	Elton Brown	OG	Virginia	Could be on the bubble, but he has some skills	9/9
5	168	Lance Mitchell	ILB	Oklahoma	Cards liked the way he played on special teams	12/0
7	226	LeRon McCoy	WR	Indiana (Pa.)	Pleasant surprise could be future No. 3 wideout	10/4

SUMMARY ▶ NOT AS INSTANTLY PRODUCTIVE AS 2004 CROP; ROLLE NEEDS TO STAY HEALTHY, ARRINGTON NEEDS TO SHOW MORE

J.J. ARRINGTON



JASON WISE / SPORTSPICS

ATLANTA FALCONS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 8-8

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

After failing to build on the momentum from making the NFC championship game in his first year as head coach in 2004, Jim Mora will need to make some major changes to get his team back in the playoffs in 2006. The Falcons have significant money tied up in some veterans who could be salary-cap casualties. QB Michael Vick plateaued last season, which is a concern, but the young receivers (including first-round picks in each of the past two years) are starting to develop. The defense is old and has plenty of holes that need to be filled. Like most of the teams in the NFC South, the Falcons don't have much money to spend in free agency, so they will shift their focus to addressing their weaknesses through the draft.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Atlanta Falcons' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/SS At both safety positions, the Falcons endured constant turnover because of injury and bad performances in '05. This is a position where the Falcons need to find a playmaker because they forced few turnovers and often suffered from some poor tackling. Keion Carpenter and Ronnie Heard are both unrestricted free agents, and Kevin McCadam, an important contributor on special teams, is also an unrestricted free agent. Antuan Edwards is the team's most promising



DONTÉ WHITNER | OHIO STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR ATLANTA'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OLB CHAD GREENWAY	Iowa
2. RB LAURENCE MARONEY	Minnesota
3. SS-CB DONTÉ WHITNER	Ohio State
4. CB TYE HILL	Clemson
5. FS KO SIMPSON	South Carolina
6. DE RYAN LACASSE	Syracuse
7. OT GUY WHIMPER	East Carolina
8. CB JASON ALLEN	Tennessee
9. DE CHRIS GOCONG	Cal-Poly
10. RB P.J. DANIELS	Georgia Tech
11. C GREG ESSLINGER	Minnesota
12. OT JIMMY MARTIN	Virginia Tech

option, and he only played in the final four games last season. In a dream scenario, none of the Falcons' safeties would be back next season. The team will make it a top priority to add safeties through the draft and in free agency.

2/DE For years, Patrick Kerney and Brady Smith have formed one of the better duos in the league. But last season, injuries finally caught up with Smith, who missed the final eight games with a toe injury. Smith, 32, is the most likely cap casualty. In acquiring a new partner for Kerney, the Falcons likely will go after an established vet-

eran in free agency. They have a lot of youth on the defensive line already, so they aren't likely to draft another end. Chauncey Davis had a promising rookie season, but he was thrown to the wolves much sooner than expected.

3/RB The Falcons have been the No. 1 running team for the past two seasons, but this offseason they are due to see some changes. The diminutive Warrick Dunn had a career season in '05, but he could fall victim to ageism — he turned 31 this year — and a high salary figure. Power back T.J. Duckett is entering the final year of his contract, and he could be trade bait after a disappointing second half of the season. Look for the Falcons to draft a running back in between Dunn and Duckett's sizes who will fit their system better.

4/OL The Falcons' well-regarded offensive line also will get a makeover in the offseason. This group is too small, which was evident late in the season when they were physically dominated at times during the team's collapse. OLT Kevin Shaffer is a free agent, and OLG Matt Lehr was disappointing. RT Todd Weiner might be another salary-cap cut. The Falcons could use one of their first-day picks to draft an offensive lineman with more meat on his bones than the members of their current group. They also will need to add one or two in free agency.

5/CB Without Pro Bowl CB DeAngelo Hall, the Falcons' secondary would be lost. Jason Webster started alongside Hall for most of 2005, but he took a step back from a solid debut with the Falcons in 2004. Backup Kevin Mathis missed all of last season with a career-threatening knee injury, and nickelback Allen Rossum battled through knee and hamstring injuries for much of the year. This appears to be as good a time as any for the Falcons to go ahead and spend a high draft pick on a cornerback who will be able to anchor the secondary along with Hall for the next few seasons.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

General manager Rich McKay is very hands-on. He does plenty of college scouting, especially for a GM who also has the dual title of team president. He's at the top of the food chain with both player and salary-cap matters. Though Mora has his fair share of input on player matters, McKay rarely defers to him.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 ATLANTA FALCONS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	27	Roddy White	WR	UAB	Slow start; big-play threat with bright future	16/8
2	59	Jonathan Babineaux	DT	Iowa	Played out of position at DE; will be back at DT in '06	16/6
3	90	Jordan Beck	ILB	Cal-Poly	Suffered a season-ending foot injury in preseason	0/0
4	128	Chauncey Davis	DE	Florida State	Forced into service earlier than expected; played well	16/5
5	160	Michael Boley	OLB	So. Mississippi	Special-teams standout; earned starting LB spot	16/11
5	163	Frank Omiyale	OT	Tennessee Tech	Didn't play as rookie; could be a factor in '06	0/0
6	201	DeAndre Cobb	RB	Michigan State	KR specialist who never earned Mora's trust	3/0
7	241	Darrell Shropshire	DT	South Carolina	Contributed off the bench in the second half of '05	10/0

SUMMARY UNEVEN PRODUCTION FROM CLASS OF '05; DEFINITELY A WORK IN PROGRESS WITH POTENTIAL TO BE GREAT



JONATHAN BABINEAUX

BALTIMORE RAVENS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 6-10

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

A sleeper Super Bowl pick entering the season, the Ravens flopped in 2005. The campaign will be remembered best for the continued struggles of the offense. QB Kyle Boller's developmental pains continued; making matters worse, the team no longer could depend on the running game. The Ravens couldn't settle on Jamal Lewis or Chester Taylor as their starting running back, and they lacked physical OL play all season. Fixing the offense is the organization's top offseason priority. Head coach Brian Billick, whose job is on the line, must find a way to get consistent production from the QB position. The defense remains a strength, though some minor retooling is necessary.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Baltimore Ravens' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 | QB Boller showed promise in late-season home starts vs. Green Bay and Minnesota. Even then, Billick and team management were not ready to name him the starting quarterback for 2006. Boller will compete for the No. 1 job in training camp, and it's likely he will have a leg up because of his familiarity with the offense and Billick's affinity for him. All the same, the Ravens are expected to sign a veteran quarterback in free agency to push Boller and to serve as a safety net if Boller again falters. The Ravens also are



MARCUS MCNEILL | AUBURN

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR BALTIMORE'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. CB ANTONIO CROMARTIE	Florida State
2. LB D'QWELL JACKSON	Maryland
3. OT MARCUS MCNEILL	Auburn
4. OG MAX JEAN-GILLES	Georgia
5. OT DARYN COLLEDGE	Boise State
6. DT JOHNNY JOLLY	Texas A&M
7. CB DAVID PITTMAN	Northwestern St. (La.)
8. OG KEVIN BOOTHE	Cornell
9. DT MONTAVIOUS STANLEY	Louisville
10. RB GERALD RIGGS JR.	Tennessee
11. QB TARVARIS JACKSON	Alabama State
12. CB GERRICK MCPHEARSON	Maryland

likely to draft a quarterback but probably won't force the issue in the early rounds. General manager Ozzie Newsome rarely strays from the team's draft board.

2 | OT The Ravens have a need at right tackle, as veteran Orlando Brown is unlikely to be re-signed and Tony Pashos is serviceable but hardly a force. Adam Terry, whom the Ravens traded up for in the '05 draft, could be an option on the right side. But with playing time available for the taking last season, Terry did not make an impact. The team also could look to add a left tackle. Jonathan Ogden is still one of the finest at his position, but the Ravens will need to start

grooming his replacement sooner than later.

3 | OG The Ravens lag behind their AFC North rivals at this position because they haven't spent the first-day draft picks or the millions in free agency to address the OG spots. OLG Edwin Mulitalo might not be back with the club. He disappointed the Ravens with his play and fitness last season. Mulitalo was said to be 30 pounds overweight in '05. Even if he gets back into shape and into the team's good graces, he might not be guaranteed a starting job. ORG Keydrick Vincent didn't impress in his first season with Baltimore, and his job also could be at stake if the Ravens can't find another replacement. Reserve OG Brian Rimpf could challenge for a bigger role, but he might not be an adequate replacement for Mulitalo or Vincent.

4 | DT The Ravens don't lack for success stories at this position. Undersized Kelly Gregg and giant Ma'ake Kemoeatu, with an assist from coordinator Rex Ryan, have made the most of their ability and are key components in Baltimore's stout run defense. However, the Ravens could use a tackle more adept at collapsing the pocket than Gregg and Kemoeatu. The answer is not on the roster. Aubrayo Franklin is limited, and Dwan Edwards has been a disappointment.

5 | CB The Ravens have pressing depth issues at the position. They depended upon old-timers Deion Sanders and Dale Carter to back-up Chris McAlister and Samari Rolle a season ago — a strategy that didn't work, especially when Sanders was covering a quicker, younger receiver on the slot and Carter was pressed into action outside. At least one young, physical cornerback would have to be a priority for the Ravens. McAlister's play has slipped the last two seasons, and Rolle has had injury problems in the past.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Billick has input on draft day, but Newsome makes the final call. Newsome isn't afraid to make a bold move (see the '03 Draft Day trade for Boller), but he sticks to his board. This strategy has paid off handsomely in several famous instances (Ray Lewis, Todd Heap, Ed Reed). However, Newsome's past two drafts didn't produce many instant-impact players. The Ravens still have an impressive core of veteran stars, but the team's depth is not what it once was.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 BALTIMORE RAVENS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	22	Mark Clayton	WR	Oklahoma	Really started to come on quickly at season's end	14/10
2	53	Dan Cody	DE-OLB	Oklahoma	Rookie season never got started after injuring knee	0/0
2	64	Adam Terry	OT	Syracuse	Ravens hoping for more from him in second season	7/0
4	124	Jason Brown	C	North Carolina	Could push incumbent C Mike Flynn	6/1
5	158	Justin Green	FB	Montana	Versatile prospect was pressed into action in '05	12/4
6	213	Derek Anderson	QB	Oregon State	Claimed off practice squad by Browns	0/0
7	234	Mike Smith	ILB	Texas Tech	Will have to make his mark on special teams	6/0

SUMMARY ► DRAFT CLASS DIDN'T PROVIDE MUCH HELP UNTIL CLAYTON'S LATE-SEASON SURGE



MARK CLAYTON

LES BENTLEY

BUFFALO BILLS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 5-11

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

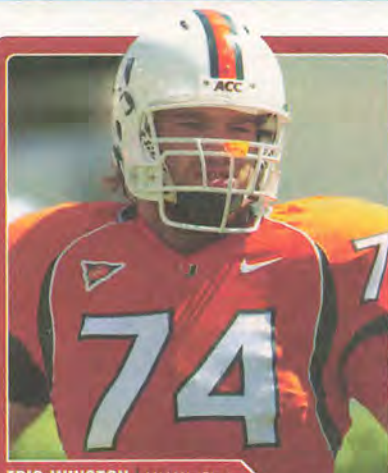
Aging owner Ralph Wilson went back to the future following a disappointing and dismal 2005 season, firing president/GM Tom Donahoe after five seasons at the helm and hiring old pal Marv Levy, a legend in Western New York for leading the Bills to four straight Super Bowls in the early 1990s, as the team's vice president of football operations/GM. The departure of head coach Mike Mularkey made for a clean break with the recent past. Levy has his work cut out for him, with improvement along both lines being a top priority. Besides the expansion Texans, the Bills are the only AFC team to not make the playoffs in the past five seasons.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Buffalo Bills' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 OLT When the Bills made the decision not to pay top dollar to retain starting OLT Jonas Jennings, it left them with a big hole on the left side of their line. The team then neglected the position in last year's draft, electing to sign low-level free agent Mike Gandy instead. The result was a disaster. Gandy was overmatched vs. speedier and more powerful defenders and struggled to run-block. The Bills desperately need a dependable, physical blocker who can protect the quarterback's blind side and is equally adept as a run blocker and in pass protection. Don't be surprised if the Bills also draft a guard after Bennie Anderson's disappointing season and with Chris Villarrial getting old.

2 DT The Bills never adequately replaced Pat Williams, who was allowed to leave via free agency, and it cost them dearly. They dropped from



ERIC WINSTON | MIAMI (Fla.)

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR BUFFALO'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. DT HALOTI NGATA	Oregon
2. OLB BOBBY CARPENTER	Ohio State
3. CB ASHTON YOUNG	Ohio State
4. OT ERIC WINSTON	Miami (Fla.)
5. OT ANDREW WHITWORTH	LSU
6. C-OG CHRIS CHESTER	Oklahoma
7. OT BRAD BUTLER	Virginia
8. DT JONATHAN LEWIS	Virginia Tech
9. CB ALAN ZEMAITIS	Penn State
10. OLB JAMAR WILLIAMS	Arizona State
11. SS DWAYNE SLAY	Texas Tech
12. CB JOSH LAY	Pittsburgh

seventh in the league vs. the run in 2004 to 31st in '05. That's not all attributable to Williams' departure, since OLB Takeo Spikes and Williams' successor, DT Ron Edwards, were both lost to injury early in the season, but the fact remains that Buffalo desperately needs a massive, run-stuffing defensive tackle to clog up the middle and free up undersized MLB London Fletcher. Pro Bowl alternate Sam Adams' status is still up in the air, so this is a major priority.

3 CB If Nate Clements is not re-signed — he's an unrestricted free agent coming off a disappointing '05 season (two interceptions) — the Bills will be looking for a big, physical corner who can line

up outside opposite Terrence McGee. Buffalo drafted Eric King last year, but he appears to fit better inside as a nickel corner. At his best, Clements was a playmaker who was good for five or six interceptions per year and could lock down on an opponent's top receiver. Buffalo needs a player who fits the same profile, with the speed to cover downfield, the size to match up against big receivers and the willingness to make plays in run support.

4 SS Though FS Troy Vincent and SS Lawyer Milloy still are able to make plays, both players seem to have lost a step, which makes the Bills vulnerable down the field. Their defense ranked 22nd in average gain per pass play and 32nd in third-down efficiency. While Vincent still has playmaking ability, as evidenced by his team-leading four interceptions, he isn't the player he once was and will be 35 next season. Milloy, 32, offers a physical presence in the secondary but also has slowed down. With depth scarce, it's time to bring in a young safety or two to groom behind these two wily veterans.

5 OLB Spikes has rehabbed exceptionally well since undergoing surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon last September. However, the question remains: Will Spikes ever be able to play at a Pro Bowl level again? Angelo Crowell stepped up in a big way and earned a contract extension for his efforts, but Jeff Posey has been a disappointment during his tenure with the Bills and is ripe to be replaced. The Bills lack depth at this position and could use a young 'backer with pass-rush ability to play the strong side and boost the pass rush.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

After deferring to Donahoe in personnel decisions, the 87-year-old Wilson has taken back the president's title and promises to play a bigger role. Levy has been out of the league since retiring as Bills head coach following the 1997 season and has worked hard this offseason to get up to speed with the league in general and the Bills specifically. He is ably assisted by assistant GM Tom Modrak, whose duties were expanded in the offseason shakeup to include more pro personnel work in addition to his stellar college scouting. Levy knows his limitations and is adept at surrounding himself with quality aides and confidants, including new head coach Dick Jauron.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 BUFFALO BILLS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	55	Roscoe Parrish	WR	Miami (Fla.)	Missed time with wrist injury; showed flashes late	10/1
3	86	Kevin Everett	TE	Miami (Fla.)	Lost for season with torn knee ligament in minicamp	0/0
4	122	Raymond "Duke" Preston	C	Illinois	Looks like team's starting center of the future	15/1
5	156	Eric King	CB	Wake Forest	Emerged as solid player in CB rotation, has promise	16/1
6	197	Justin Geisinger	OG	Vanderbilt	On practice squad much of season	0/0
7	236	Lionel Gates	RB	Louisville	Failed to earn backup spot coming out of preseason	0/0

SUMMARY ► WENT FOR SKILL-POSITION SPEED OVER BIGGER NEEDS AT OT, DT; PARRISH, PRESTON, KING HAVE STARTING POTENTIAL



ROSCEE PARRISH

CAROLINA PANTHERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Panthers quickly have established themselves as one of the most stable teams in the league. They made some uncharacteristically big splashes in free agency last year, signing CB Ken Lucas and OG Mike Wahle, but it's safe not to expect any wholesale changes in the offseason again this year. There's little reason for change because the Panthers were back in the playoffs last season for the second time in the past three years. Starters RB DeShaun Foster and WLB Will Witherspoon will be free agents, and the Panthers probably can afford to re-sign only one of them.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Carolina Panthers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 RB Foster could parlay a successful final month of the regular season and a solid playoff run into a big pay day. Foster should get a fair offer from the Panthers, but they are unlikely to overspend to bring him back into the fold. With Stephen Davis' career likely over — he was placed on I.R. for the final few weeks of the regular season because his production went down as his knee pain increased — the Panthers face the possibility of having to replace their top two backs. Head coach John Fox likes having two big-time backs, so look for Carolina to possibly spend a high draft pick to secure one and



JOHN MCCARGO | N.C. STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR CAROLINA'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OG MAX JEAN-GLILES	Georgia
2. DT JOHN MCCARGO	North Carolina St.
3. RB JOSEPH ADDAI	LSU
4. DT GABE WATSON	Michigan
5. WR MAURICE STOVALL	Notre Dame
6. RB CEDRIC HUMES	Virginia Tech
7. WR GREG JENNINGS	Western Michigan
8. OT DONALD PENN	Utah State
9. WR CORY RODGERS	Texas Christian
10. DE JASON HALL	Tennessee
11. C PATRICK ROSS	Boston College
12. DT KEDRIC GOLSTON	Georgia

to try to get another in free agency.

2 WR Steve Smith had an MVP-caliber season in 2005. But for most of the season, the Panthers lacked a solid No. 2 wideout. In fact, Foster was the team's second-leading receiver. Toward the end of the season, WR Drew Carter was promoted to the active roster, and he showed some potential. He likely will get a chance to compete for a starter's role, but he is too raw to be a sure thing. Keary Colbert showed he is a better fit as a possession receiver and that he

will be an adequate replacement for Ricky Proehl, who may retire. The Panthers probably will court a veteran free agent to fill their No. 2 spot for next season.

3 DT The front four on defense — like running back on offense — is a key component of Fox's coaching philosophy. Former Pro Bowl DT Kris Jenkins has shown signs of being injury-prone, missing the final 12 games in 2004 and suffering a season-ending knee injury in Week One in '05. And veteran Brentson Buckner is on his last legs and again flirting with retirement. Jordan Carstens and Kindal Moorehead have been adequate replacements for Jenkins for the past two years, but the Panthers will look to add more depth by drafting a tackle.

4 OL The Panthers spent a lot of money last year to lure Wahle away from the Packers, so they won't be huge spenders at this position in free agency. But look for the Panthers to make a few additions to their O-line through the draft. Carolina has had success developing linemen. Both starting tackles, Jordan Gross and Travelle Wharton, were first-day picks by the Panthers in the past four years.

5 PK Rarely has a season gone by where the Panthers haven't brought in someone to compete with veteran John Kasay, and 2006 appears to be no different. Though Kasay remains near-perfect inside of 40 yards — he has missed nine kicks from that distance in his 11 seasons with Carolina — Fox made several comments last season that he was losing confidence in Kasay's ability to consistently make kicks from 40 yards and beyond (Kasay missed eight kicks from that distance last year). The Panthers almost certainly will sign a free agent, but don't rule out the possibility that they'll use a late-round draft pick on a kicker of the future.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

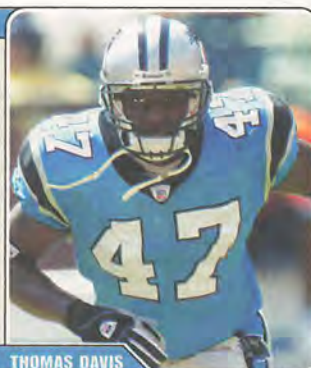
Fox has quite a bit of say in personnel matters for a coach who doesn't also have GM attached to his title. GM Marty Hurney is a salary-cap specialist who has a background in journalism, not coaching or scouting. Because he doesn't have coaching experience, Hurney often defers to Fox when push comes to shove on personnel matters.

DRAFT

REWIND • 2005 CAROLINA PANTHERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	14	Thomas Davis	FS-OLB	Georgia	Found niche as a blitzing; could move to WLB in '06	16/2
2	54	Eric Shelton	RB	Louisville	Spent '05 on I.R.; coaches disappointed so far	0/0
3	79	Evan Mathis	OG	Alabama	OK as a backup; will take time to develop	9/0
3	89	Atiyah Ellison	DT	Missouri	Bounced between practice squad and active roster	0/0
4	121	Stefan LeFors	QB	Louisville	No. 3 QB in '05 who could be No. 2 if Weinke leaves	0/0
5	149	Adam Seward	ILB	UNLV	Stuck on I.R. for the final 12 games	4/0
5	169	Geoff Hangartner	C	Texas A&M	With minimal playing time, the jury's still out	4/0
5	171	Ben Emanuel II	FS	UCLA	Cut by Panthers; finished season with the 49ers	11/7
6	189	Jovan Haye	DE	Vanderbilt	Saw limited action because of Panthers' DE depth	2/0
6	207	Joe Berger	OT	Michigan Tech	Signed off Panthers' practice squad by Dolphins	3/0

SUMMARY ARGUABLY THE TEAM'S WORST CLASS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS; LONG-TERM POTENTIAL DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE THERE



THOMAS DAVIS

CHICAGO BEARS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Bears are expected to return all 11 starters from their dominant defense. The natural assumption, then, is that management mostly would focus its attention on gathering playmakers on offense, an exercise general manager Jerry Angelo began in 2003, drafting QB Rex Grossman in the first round. Last April, the Bears selected RB Cedric Benson and WR Mark Bradley with their first two picks, but the need for speed and big-play weapons remains. However, Angelo believes in overstocking at critical positions — see the selection of Benson fourth overall in '05 despite the presence of Thomas Jones, who ran for 1,335 yards last season — to create a defined strength. Angelo might further bolster the defense to assure the Bears don't see a dropoff in '06.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Chicago Bears' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/LB Depth is a concern, and the Bears hadn't moved to re-sign OLBs Lance Briggs or Hunter Hillenmeyer as of presstime. Briggs plays the all-important "Will" LB position, earned a Pro Bowl spot in '05 and had one tackle fewer than MLB Brian Urlacher, by the coaches' count. Hillenmeyer,



KELLY JENNINGS | MIAMI (Fla.)

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR CHICAGO'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OLB ERNIE SIMS	Florida State
2. DT JOHN MCCARGO	North Carolina State
3. CB KELLY JENNINGS	Miami (Fla.)
4. CB TYE HILL	Clemson
5. OG ROB SIMS	Ohio State
6. TE DAVID THOMAS	Texas
7. OLB JAMAR WILLIAMS	Arizona State
8. WR CORY RODGERS	Texas Christian
9. TE OWEN DANIELS	Wisconsin
10. CB DAVID PITTMAN	Northwestern St. (La.)
11. WR JEFF WEBB	San Diego State
12. OT DONALD PENN	Utah State

a restricted free agent, is better in this system than he might be in others. Scouts consider this a deep LB class, so Angelo might be able to wait until the middle rounds, as he did drafting Briggs in the third round in 2003, to add a player who won't have to fill an immediate need.

2/TE Fans have been pining for a pass-catching tight end for years. Chicago last drafted a tight end on the first day in 2000 (Dustin Lyman in the third round), previously missing on a slew of middle-rounders — Todd Harrison (1992), Chris Gedney (1993), John Allred (1997) and Alonzo Mayes (1998). Incumbent starter Desmond Clark has averaged 30.7 catches in three sea-

sons. He'll make a circus grab or two, but doesn't have quick feet, struggles to separate and is only a target on short, intermediate routes. He'd be a fine second tight end.

3/CB Angelo knows a good one when he sees one, and had a hand in drafting CBs Ronde Barber (third round, 66th overall) in 1997 and Brian Kelly (second round, '98) with the Buccaneers. With the Bears, Angelo drafted a cornerback in the first four rounds in each of his first three drafts, missing on Roosevelt Williams before striking gold with '05 starters Charles Tillman and Nathan Vasher. Nickel CB Jerry Azumah is a free agent, and Vasher and Tillman are signed through 2007.

4/OL Three returning starters will be older than 30 years of age on opening day — OLT John Tait (31), OLG Ruben Brown (34) and ORT Fred Miller (33) — and C Olin Kreutz (29) isn't far behind. ORG Terrence Metcalf is an unrestricted free agent. To fill an immediate need, the OG spot might be the pressing matter. Brown, scheduled to make \$1.5 million in salary, has shown signs of wearing down. The Bears do have versatile backup Roberto Garza, who played all three interior spots in 2005, but lack depth at offensive tackle. Marc Colombo (first round, '02) is the lone pure tackle selected by the Bears on the first day of the draft in the past 10 years.

5/WR Sky-high hopes for Bradley, the team's second-round pick last year, had to be adjusted after he suffered another serious knee injury. The Bears have individuals with speed (Bernard Berrian) and size (Justin Gage), but none with enough of both to be considered "special" by the Angelo camp. Bradley has potential, but scouts are leery of counting an egg that hasn't hatched. Berrian's durability has been questioned.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

He has a big hand in free agency, as does pro personnel director Bobby DePaul, but the draft is Angelo's baby. Very much a scout at heart, as opposed to an executive behind the desk, Angelo and the scouting staff aren't afraid to roll the dice in the middle rounds, turning up eventual starters such as Vasher and Briggs. On the first day, and especially in the first round, Angelo drafts for value, regardless of position.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 CHICAGO BEARS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	4	Cedric Benson	RB	Texas	"Value pick" held out, missed time with knee injury	9/1
2	39	Mark Bradley	WR	Oklahoma	Displayed big-play skills; knee injury ended season	7/4
4	106	Kyle Orton	QB	Purdue	Was 10-5 as starter; arguably team's offensive MVP	15/15
5	140	Airese Currie	WR	Clemson	Slender speedster couldn't stay healthy	0/0
6	181	Chris Harris	FS	Louisiana-Monroe	Gem became a starter by Week Two	14/13
7	220	Rodriques Wilson	OLB	South Carolina	Knee injury landed small outside 'backer on I.R.	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ EACH ROOKIE THAT PLAYED STARTED AT LEAST ONE GAME AND SHOULD PAD BEARS' DEPTH FOR THE FUTURE



KYLE ORTON

CINCINNATI BENGALS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

The Bengals' offseason plans changed when QB Carson Palmer's left knee buckled after a hit from Steelers DE Kimo von Oelhoffen. While adding talent to the defense remains a priority, the Bengals need a contingency plan in case Palmer's recovery goes slower than they hope. The Bengals figure to address the QB position in free agency. The market also could bear new defensive personnel, especially at tackle and safety. The Bengals have drafted well throughout head coach Marvin Lewis' tenure, but Lewis might be tempted to add more veterans as the team tries to advance from playoff entrant to legitimate contender.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Cincinnati Bengals' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 QB With Palmer's status for the 2006 season opener in question after suffering a serious left knee injury in the wild-card loss to Pittsburgh, the Bengals need another starting-caliber signalcaller. Jon Kitna would appear to fit the bill, but he will draw interest in free agency. His price could be prohibitive, especially with Palmer signing a lucrative contract extension only a week before he suffered the injury. The Bengals believe No. 3 QB Craig Krenzel could have a future with the club, but it's unlikely Cincinnati would entertain the idea of him being a fill-in starter if Palmer isn't ready at the beginning of the season.

2 DT This has been a problem area for the Bengals for many years, and most noticeable during the first



MARCEDES LEWIS | UCLA

The **HOT** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR CINCINNATI'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. S DONTÉ WHITNER	Ohio State
2. TE MARCEDES LEWIS	UCLA
3. DT CLAUDE WROTEN	LSU
4. QB CHARLIE WHITEHURST	Clemson
5. OG CHARLES SPENCER	Pittsburgh
6. DT JOHNNY JOLLY	Texas A&M
7. TE ANTHONY FASANO	Notre Dame
8. DE BARRY COFIELD	Northwestern
9. DT MONTAVIOUS STANLEY	Louisville
10. FS NATE SALLEY	Ohio State
11. C CHRIS MORRIS	Michigan State
12. S TYLER EVERETT	Ohio State

three years of Lewis' tenure with the club, as more national attention was paid to the team. Veterans Bryan Robinson and John Thornton were the starters for much of last season. Robinson is a bulked-up defensive end, and most observers believe Thornton would be best as a third tackle. Young Matthias Askew has been a disappointment. To conquer Pittsburgh and beat Baltimore and Cleveland consistently, the Bengals need more out of this position. All three division foes boast physical running attacks. Lewis has said that the Bengals don't necessarily need to add big defensive tackles, citing the success of smaller tackles in cover-2 schemes.

3 TE Another position where the Bengals fall short of their AFC North rivals. The Ravens have Todd Heap. The Steelers have Heath Miller. The Browns still have high hopes for Kellen Winslow. The Bengals have strength in numbers at the TE position but no single star performer. Reggie Kelly excels as a blocker but can't catch. Tony Stewart has an ideal body for the position, but he's not a pass-catching threat. The Bengals do occasionally get a big play from Matt Schobel, but he's essentially an afterthought in the offense.

4 S The Bengals have a fine free safety in Madiou Williams. Swift and physical, he's an ideal last line of defense for a front seven that struggles to tackle at times. But Williams' durability is in question after he missed most of last season with a shoulder injury. A young free safety who can learn from Williams and help on special teams and on passing downs would be a great fit. The Bengals also could consider letting injury-prone SS Kim Herring go and look to add a younger presence at that position. Even if Herring stays, the Bengals need to add youth at this position. Reserves Ifeanyi Ohalet and Kevin Kaesviharn were overmatched against balanced offenses.

5 C Veteran Rich Braham long has been an underappreciated but important cog along the offensive line. But 2006 very well could be his final season with the club. Young Eric Ghiaciuc eventually could replace Braham, but the Bengals would be wise to add a center/guard just to be sure. In fact, the team could stand to improve its depth at all the OL positions. As of this writing, all five starters were free agents after the '06 season. Retaining OLG Eric Steinbach and OLT Levi Jones must be front-office priorities.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

Lewis will make the call on draft day. He's also the point man in free agency. He has proven a sharp eye for talent, especially on the draft's first day. The busts have been few and far between, and it's a major reason why the Bengals' depth chart is much more impressive than it was three years ago. Insiders say scouting consultant Bill Tobin also has played a major role in Cincinnati's draft success in recent years.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 CINCINNATI BENGALS RECAP

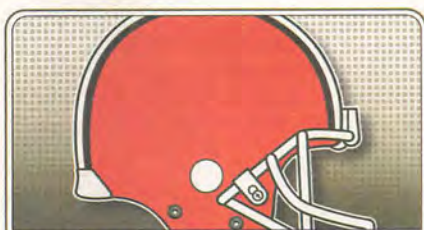
RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	17	David Pollack	OLB-DE	Georgia	Holdout stunted progress early; came on late	14/6
2	48	Odell Thurman	ILB	Georgia	Starter from Week One on; one of AFC's best rookies	16/15
3	83	Chris Henry	WR	West Virginia	Scored six TDs; off-field are problems a concern	14/5
4	119	Eric Ghiaciuc	C	Central Michigan	Could be groomed to replace Rich Braham	5/1
5	153	Adam Kieft	OT	Central Michigan	Missed season after tearing ACL, MCL	0/0
6	190	Tab Perry	WR	UCLA	Valuable on coverage teams and returns; great value	16/0
7	233	Jonathan Fanene	DE	Utah	Bengals like his upside	3/1

SUMMARY • THURMAN OUTPERFORMED THE MORE HIGHLY REGARDED POLLACK; WRs HENRY, PERRY WERE INSTANT HITS



ODELL THURMAN

CLEVELAND BROWNS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 6-10

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Browns are playing catch-up. They were 5-5 against non-division opponents in 2005 but a feeble 1-5 against AFC North rivals, beating only Baltimore in the season finale. To compete in the division, look for the Browns to upgrade a defense that executed head coach Romeo Crennel's 3-4 scheme well but didn't have the personnel to stop the run or rush the passer consistently. The offense needs help along the line and at receiver. General manager Phil Savage has indicated the Browns have the salary-cap room to "go out and pursue some guys. Hopefully, we'll get some. We may not get many, but we're going to try to get some guys who'll help us win."

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Cleveland Browns' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/LB The Browns notched a league-low 23 sacks in 2005 — almost 14 fewer than the league average. The outside 'backers, the primary pass rushers in the 3-4, recorded only seven sacks. ROLB Chaun Thompson tied for the team lead with five sacks and flashed potential, and he could keep his job. However, the Browns might look at making changes on the left side. Veteran OLB Matt Stewart isn't a pass-rushing threat, and



BRODRICK BUNKLEY | FLORIDA STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR CLEVELAND'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. NT BRODRICK BUNKLEY	Florida State
2. OLB BOBBY CARPENTER	Ohio State
3. NT BABATUNDE OSHINOWO	Stanford
4. DE JULIAN JENKINS	Stanford
5. FS ANTHONY SMITH	Syracuse
6. OT QUINN OJINAKA	Syracuse
7. WR GREG JENNINGS	Western Michigan
8. OLB GERRIS WILKINSON	Georgia Tech
9. OT ISAAC SOWELS	Indiana
10. ILB KAI PARHAM	Virginia
11. WR DELANIE WALKER	Central Missouri St.
12. FS DAWAN LANDRY	Georgia Tech

converted DE Kenard Lang did not take to the OLB position as well as the Browns would have hoped.

2/NT The league's 30th-ranked rush defense will look to get stronger up the middle. Veteran NTs Jason Fisk and Ethan Kelley would be utilized best in reserve roles. Savage could look to add another veteran via free agency (Baltimore's Ma'ake Kemoeatu?) and a rookie via the draft. The Browns don't necessarily need to spend a high pick on the position — the Ravens, when they have run the 3-4 previously, have gotten by with Kelly Gregg and Kemoeatu, neither of whom was a first-day draft pick.

3/OT OLT L.J. Shelton is a free agent, and there's a feeling the Browns could allow him to sign elsewhere. Fixing the OT position can be very difficult via free agency for obvious supply and demand reasons. "There's not a whole lot to choose from out there," Savage said at the end of last season, "especially when you start factoring in the salary and the money that it's going to take to bring other people in here." It won't be surprising if Savage uses a first-day draft pick to add a tackle to back up a veteran on the left side (and OLT Ryan Tucker, too) with the hope of that rookie becoming a starter in 2007.

4/WR The Browns' lousy luck with first-round picks continued in 2005. Just as WR Braylon Edwards had emerged as Cleveland's go-to receiver, he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Edwards is expected to be ready for the start of the '06 season, but will he be as explosive as he once was? Veteran Antonio Bryant is a free agent and might not be back. Dennis Northcutt can play the slot and is a good punt returner, but he is not an effective starter. The Browns need to give QB Charlie Frye more help at this position.

5/S The Browns could give FS Brodney Pool and SS Sean Jones a chance to take starting jobs this season in an attempt to get stronger up the middle. The 2005 starters, FS Brian Russell and SS Chris Crocker, had their moments but aren't as talented as Pool and Jones. The Browns desperately need a play-maker at this position; division rivals Baltimore (Ed Reed), Cincinnati (Madiou Williams) and Pittsburgh (Troy Polamalu) all boast versatile, athletic centerfielders.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Savage, who nearly lost his job in a failed coup attempt by then-president John Collins, makes the call on draft day. This is Savage's second draft with the club. His first draft yielded Edwards and Frye but not much bench help. Crennel will have a say in personnel matters. If Crennel and Savage can improve the defensive talent, the Browns could make a run at a .500 record. The Browns were in the upper half of the league in yards per play allowed in 2005, an impressive feat considering Crennel didn't have textbook talent for his 3-4 scheme.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 CLEVELAND BROWNS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	3	Braylon Edwards	WR	Michigan	ACL injury ended promising season	10/7
2	34	Brodney Pool	FS	Oklahoma	Couldn't unseat veteran Brian Russell	13/0
3	67	Charlie Frye	QB	Akron	Browns love his moxie; likely 2006 starter	7/5
4	103	Antonio Perkins	CB	Oklahoma	Prolific punt returner in college didn't make impact	1/0
5	139	David McMillan	DE	Kansas	Played early; inactive for most of second half	4/0
6	176	Nick Speegle	OLB	New Mexico	Saw action on special teams	14/0
6	203	Andrew Hoffman	DT-NT	Virginia	Spent season on practice squad	0/0
7	217	Jon Dunn	OT	Virginia Tech	Spent season on injured reserve	0/0

SUMMARY • EDWARDS, FRYE LOOK LIKE STARTERS FOR YEARS TO COME, BUT BROWNS DIDN'T GET MUCH ELSE FROM THIS CLASS



BRAYLON EDWARDS

SCOTT WALLEN / PROCASE

DALLAS COWBOYS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 9-7

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

After last offseason, anything the Cowboys do this time around will appear miserly. But after addressing several considerable needs through free agency and the draft — and throwing around a lot of cash in the process — look for Jerry Jones and Bill Parcells to be more sedate in their dealings this offseason. Still, the thought of missing the playoffs again has left a bitter taste in the team's mouth, and it has highlighted some crucial deficiencies that could prevent the team from advancing if they are not addressed properly.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Dallas Cowboys' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/OL The team could try to upgrade as many as three spots here, with right tackle, center and left guard being the primary areas of concern. Rookie ORT Rob Petitti did his best and improved, but he has limitations. C Al Johnson just might be too small to handle the heavyweight nose tackles of the league, and backup Andre Gurode is likely to walk in free agency. And OLG Larry Allen is nearing the end of a great run; his replacement doesn't appear to be on the roster. Depth also is a problem. Torrin Tucker, who filled in for OLT Flozell Adams, did better than some expected but clearly is limited. OG Stephen Peterman has shown nothing to date. The Cowboys could address one of these spots with their first-round pick.

2/WR It's no knock against either Keyshawn Johnson or Terry Glenn that receiver is considered a pertinent area of need. Both played well last



SANTONIO HOLMES | OHIO STATE

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR DALLAS' SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. WR SANTONIO HOLMES	Ohio State
2. OG DAVIN JOSEPH	Oklahoma
3. NT BABATUNDE OSHINOWO	Stanford
4. OLB BOBBY CARPENTER	Ohio State
5. RB JOSEPH ADDAI	LSU
6. FS ANTHONY SMITH	Syracuse
7. OLB OMAR GAITHER	Tennessee
8. OT ZACH STRIEF	Northwestern
9. WR MAURICE STOVALL	Notre Dame
10. OT BRAD BUTLER	Virginia
11. FS SCOTT WARE	USC
12. PK STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI	Memphis

season, but their ages — they turn 34 and 32 in July, respectively — leave the Cowboys with little for the future. Parcells is a fan of Patrick Crayton, who earned the No. 3 role before getting hurt but did little after returning from injury, which at least casts some doubt about the player. Terrell Owens has been mentioned as a free-agent possibility if he's let go by Philly, but it appears to be an unlikely match. The team needs an infusion of youth here.

3/LB Dat Nguyen, a mainstay the past seven seasons, might be forced into retirement because of neck and back problems. Al Singleton, not an ideal fit in the 3-4 defense anyway, also faces uncer-

tainty after missing most of the season with a broken collarbone. Though OLB Scott Fujita had some nice moments and appears comfortable in the scheme, he's an unrestricted free agent. And it might be too early to rely on Ryan Fowler for anything but spot duty inside. Scott Shanle is likely a goner. Rookie Kevin Burnett has great upside, and the team remains intrigued by Kalen Thornton, but another veteran might bolster this unit. The team also might consider the right rookie to add depth.

4/FS By season's end it was clear that neither Keith Davis nor Willie Pile could handle the team's coverages at free safety. Both are good special-teams players, so they should remain on the roster (though Davis is a restricted free agent and Pile an exclusive-rights free agent). The team also wants to get a look at Justin Beriault, last year's sixth-rounder, who showed promise in training camp before missing the season following microfracture knee surgery. But he might be more of a strong-safety type, and the team already has one of those in Roy Williams. What it needs is a coverage safety who can handle cover-2 — a rangy, athletic ballhawk who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty.

5/PK This one's simple: Parcells wants a kicker who can convert placekicks of some length with some consistency and put some distance and hangtime on kickoffs. That's it. If the kicker is tough-minded, all the better. But after a season in which the team went with Billy Cundiff, Jose Cortez, Cundiff again and Shaun Suisham, who combined to make only 59 percent of their kicks longer than 29 yards, it's time for the team to spend a little money — and perhaps a draft pick — on a well-regarded kicker. Remember, though, that Parcells has plucked some pretty good ones (Matt Bahr, Adam Vinatieri) off the scrap heap, so drafting one appears a bit of a longshot.

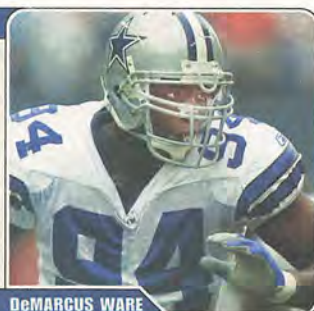
THE DECISIONMAKERS

It's Bill Parcells' show. Since taking the job in Dallas, he has overhauled the front office, pushing out Larry Lacewell and promoting scouting directors Jeff Ireland and Tom Ciskowski, both considered "Parcells guys." Jones likes to sit in on draft meetings and evaluations but no longer possesses the final say on Draft Day decisions, even though he signs the checks to free agents.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 DALLAS COWBOYS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	11	DeMarcus Ware	OLB	Troy	Flashed raw pass-rush skill but was inconsistent	16/16
1	20	Marcus Spears	DE	LSU	Came on late in year but could make more big plays	16/10
2	42	Kevin Burnett	OLB	Tennessee	Got in Parcells' doghouse, suffered nagging injuries	13/0
4	109	Marion Barber III	RB	Minnesota	Might have earned more than goal-line role	13/2
4	132	Chris Canty	DE	Virginia	Appears to be future starter opposite Spears	16/2
6	208	Justin Beriault	FS	Ball State	Placed on I.R. in training camp; could be factor in '06	0/0
6	209	Rob Petitti	OT	Pittsburgh	Struggled as starting ORT but could have future	16/16
7	224	Jeremiah "Jay" Ratliff	DE	Auburn	Made roster, did little in four games	4/1

SUMMARY ► THIS COULD GO DOWN AS ONE OF THE FRANCHISE'S ALL-TIME BEST DRAFTS, AND THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING



DEMARCUS WARE

DENVER BRONCOS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 13-3

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Broncos are coming off a strong 13-3 campaign in which they staked a claim to the second seed in the AFC playoff picture before dropping the conference title game at home. After making all kinds of noise last spring and summer by raiding the Browns' roster to address a below-average defensive line, signing (and cutting) Jerry Rice and drafting (and cutting) troubled former Ohio State RB Maurice Clarett in the third round, the Broncos appear to be in line for less change this time around. The roster is solid and fairly deep overall, and a budding young secondary has people excited in the Mile High City. Expect a few tweaks here and there, but the Broncos, barring injury, should march out roughly the same lineup next September as long as they are able to re-sign two key cogs — OLT Matt Lepsis and DT Gerard Warren — both of whom are expected to void out of their current deals. Denver's salary-cap situation is worth watching as well. The Broncos were around \$22 million over the projected 2006 cap as of presstime.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Denver Broncos' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/OG The Broncos have more adequate depth in other areas, but the interior of the offensive line is a concern. Ben Hamilton is a solid guard who fits Denver's scheme very well, but he is destined to play center when Nalen eventually steps aside in a few years. Nalen, coming off a Pro Bowl-type year in 2005, recently signed a three-year



DEREK HAGAN | ARIZONA STATE

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR DENVER'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. OG DAVIN JOSEPH	Oklahoma
2. FS KO SIMPSON	South Carolina
3. TE DOMINIQUE BYRD	USC
4. WR DEREK HAGAN	Arizona State
5. SS BERNARD POLLARD	Purdue
6. OT RASHAD BUTLER	Miami (Fla.)
7. RB JERIOUS NORWOOD	Mississippi State
8. DE JULIAN JENKINS	Stanford
9. RB P.J. DANIELS	Georgia Tech
10. WR MARTIN NANCE	Miami (Ohio)
11. C GREG ESLINGER	Minnesota
12. WR JEFF WEBB	San Diego State

contract extension. But that doesn't mean a lineman or two still aren't needed up front. Cooper Carlisle is serviceable at right guard, but all they have behind him and Hamilton are Chris Myers, a sixth-round pick; Taylor Whitney, who was out of football for the first two months of the season after being cut by the Dolphins; and converted TE Dwayne Carswell, provided he makes a full recovery from the serious injuries he sustained in a car accident.

2/WR The Broncos are seemingly always looking for a No. 3 wide-out, but eventually they're going to need to locate more than that. Rod Smith is still incredibly productive, but the fact

remains he'll turn 36 in May. The club wasn't all that impressed with Ashley Lelie in his fourth year. The athletic former first-round pick has his moments, but they have been few and far between. He also hasn't been known to show the concentration or toughness necessary to take his game to the next level. Youngsters Charlie Adams and Todd Devoe show flashes but still have a lot of work ahead of them. And who knows about the future of former Bears first-round pick David Terrell?

3/S With Champ Bailey in his prime and a wealth of young talent, the CB position appears rock solid. But the same can't be said for the safety spots, where John Lynch is aging and Nick Ferguson is considered average at best. Despite a quality CB lot that can make up a lot of ground, range is a real concern here. Backup S Sam Brandon has plenty of upside, but look for the Broncos to get another young athlete back there soon.

4/DE The massive overhaul of Denver's defensive line last offseason covered some holes for the time being, but the Broncos still would like to acquire a pass rusher for the future who can learn while playing behind Trevor Pryce and Courtney Brown. Free agent-to-be John Engelberger knows how to get to the quarterback, but it's uncertain whether he'll ever be more than a situational role player.

5/RB OK, so maybe it doesn't exactly qualify as a major area of need, considering Denver nearly boasted two 1,000-yard rushers in Mike Anderson and Tatum Bell and has Ron Dayne as a reserve who loves the blocking system. But history tells us that the Broncos never stand pat with the RB position. You can take it to the bank that they will select a running back in the draft and grab one or two in free agency before they head into camp.

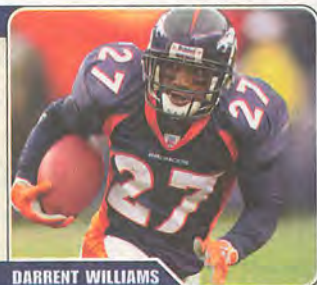
THE DECISIONMAKERS

General manager Ted Sundquist is highly regarded for the homework he does in the scouting department to keep Denver routinely competitive. But it's head coach Mike Shanahan who also happens to carry the title of executive vice president of football operations. Shanahan has been granted final say in regard to all personnel matters by Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, and Sundquist and Shanahan work well together.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 DENVER BRONCOS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	56	Darrent Williams	CB	Oklahoma State	Earned starting role with feistiness, playmaking skills	12/9
3	76	Karl Paymah	CB	Washington State	Saw action mostly on special teams	13/0
3	97	Domonique Foxworth	CB	Maryland	Solid first year; more polished than Williams	16/7
3	101	Maurice Clarett	RB	Ohio State	Bust; released after being a non-factor in camp	0/0
6	200	Chris Myers	OG	Miami (Fla.)	Very limited action but fits Denver's system well	9/0
7	239	Paul Ernster	PK	Northern Arizona	Spent most of season on practice squad, injured list	1/0

SUMMARY ► THE BRONCOS LOVE THEIR YOUNG COVER MEN, BUT THEY DIDN'T GET MUCH BEYOND THAT LAST APRIL



DARRENT WILLIAMS

DETROIT LIONS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 5-11

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

For the third time since team president Matt Millen walked into Detroit, the Lions are back where they started. The Ford family hired Rod Marinelli as its third head coach in four seasons, hoping he can propel the franchise back into the playoff picture for the first time since 1999. A lot of work remains after Year Five of the fruitless Millen era generated minimal results and a disappointing 5-11 season. The cupboard isn't bare of talent, though, and DT Shaun Rogers, CB Dré Bly, ORG Damien Woody and WR Roy Williams are blue-chippers and building blocks capable of leading a prompt turnaround if everything clicks with Marinelli. In a pivotal year for Millen, hitting on multiple starters in the draft will be necessary to erase, or at the very least soothe, past mistakes.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Detroit Lions' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 QB The Joey Harrington experiment is on the fritz, pending review by the Lions' new coaching staff. There is a chance Harrington returns, but no guarantee he shows improvement. The Lions' QB lineage isn't worth bragging about. For example, Scott Mitchell is second on the career passing list (behind Bobby Layne), and the last Detroit quarterback to be named to the Pro Bowl was Greg Landry back in 1972. Lions scouts are said to covet Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler, but Detroit can be expected to flirt with veterans on the open market. Offensively, the Lions



JAY CUTLER | VANDERBILT

The **HOT** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR DETROIT'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. QB JAY CUTLER	Vanderbilt
2. OLB CHAD GREENWAY	Iowa
3. ILB D'QWELL JACKSON	Maryland
4. DE TAMBA HALL	Penn State
5. DE PARYS HARRALSON	Tennessee
6. OLB ROCKY MCINTOSH	Miami (Fla.)
7. CB CEDRIC GRIFFIN	Texas
8. QB BRODIE CROYLE	Alabama
9. OT JONATHAN SCOTT	Texas
10. CB JASON ALLEN	Tennessee
11. OT ZACH STRIEF	Northwestern
12. OT PAUL MCQUISTAN	Weber State

have a nice collection of talent, but the addition of a QB of the future might be wise.

2 DE The Lions assembled a tough, physical front four with plenty of size, but they lack a pure pass rusher at the DE position. Some felt Kalimba Edwards, a second-round pick in 2002, could be that type of player. He never has cracked the starting lineup or posted more than seven sacks in a season. Detroit will shop for an end, a position with respectable available talent, in free agency before the draft. Overachiever James Hall had 11½ sacks in '04, but he is more of a power end than a pass rusher. DE Cory Redding also could be a tackle, but he's not a speed guy either.

3 OT Believe it or not, the Lions have drafted three offensive tackles in the first round in the past six years — Aaron Gibson, 27th overall, in 1999; Stockar McDougle, 20th, in 2000; and unrestricted free agent Jeff Backus, 18th, in '01. But some scouts see Backus as a guard, and he's not sold on staying in Detroit. That could create two OT openings, pending a review of ORT Kelly Butler by Marinelli and his staff. Butler is extremely raw and contributed to stunting the growth of RB Kevin Jones last season.

4 LB MLB Earl Holmes is a free agent and the Lions don't know if Teddy Lehman can fill that spot. Lehman, a second-round pick in 2004, played in only five games last season because of a knee injury. Complicating matters is that Detroit's supposed top linebacker, Boss Bailey, missed the entire '04 season (knee surgery) and the final four games in '05 with a serious ankle injury. WLBs James Davis and Alex Lewis haven't been difference-makers to date. Lehman was considered a better fit outside by the previous coaching staff. Behind Rogers and Dan Wilkinson, who keep blockers at bay, an undersized speedster might be considered over a traditional, gap-plugging throwback in the mold of Holmes.

5 CB Opposite two-time Pro Bowl RCB Dré Bly, the Lions juggled R.W. McQuarters and André Goodman with minimal success. Keith Smith (73rd overall in '04) and Stanley Wilson (72nd in '05) were drafted in the third round in the past two years, but neither emerged as a reliable option. Both are thin-legged with basketball player body types. Should the Lions see a chance to bring in another big-play corner, don't be shocked if LCB Fernando Bryant, a bust since signing a lucrative deal as an unrestricted free agent in 2004, gets the boot to save some cap space.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

Millen calls the shots on Draft Day with input from his scouting staff. The Ford family is part of the democracy and allegedly pushed Millen in Harrington's direction with the third overall pick in 2002, but Millen carries veto power. He's not afraid to trade up — as he did to draft Rogers in '01 and again for Jones in the first round of the '04 draft — or down, as he did in drafting Williams earlier in '04. The Lions selected an offensive player with their first pick in each of the past six drafts. Rogers is the only Pro Bowler drafted by the Millen regime (RS Eddie Drummond was an undrafted free agent in '02).

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 DETROIT LIONS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	10	Mike Williams	WR	USC	Struggled to separate, make big plays in limited duty	14/4
2	37	Shaun Cody	DT-DE	USC	Backup was third tackle behind Rogers and "Big Daddy"	16/2
3	72	Stanley Wilson	CB	Stanford	Dime corner as a rookie, might start in 2006	9/0
5	145	Dan Orlovsky	QB	Connecticut	Only Lions QB fairly certain to return	2/0
6	184	Bill Swancutt	DE	Oregon State	Even with DE injuries, was unable to grab key role	8/0
6	206	Johnathan Goddard	OLB	Marshall	Released and landed with the Colts	1/0

SUMMARY ▶ FANS ARE DISGUSTED BY IMMEDIATE RETURN, BUT TOP FOUR PICKS HAVE SOME PROMISE



MIKE WILLIAMS

SCOTT WALLER / PROBASE

GREEN BAY PACKERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 4-12

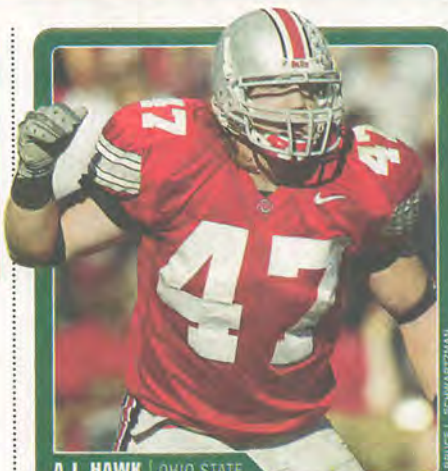
OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

General manager Ted Thompson isn't the most popular figure in Green Bay these days. In his first season on the job, the Packers managed four wins, leading Thompson to fire head coach Mike Sherman and prompt speculation that 36-year-old Brett Favre is leaning toward retirement. The Packers need help at almost every position, and new head coach Mike McCarthy could place added importance on the few spots — such as offensive tackle — the existing scouting department considered positions of strength in Sherman's system. Green Bay picks fifth overall. The Packers haven't executed a pick that high since 1992, when then-general manager Ron Wolf chose Florida State CB Terrell Buckley at No. 5.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Green Bay Packers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 RB Ahman Green and Najeh Davenport are unrestricted free agents, and the Packers have said they would like to discuss bringing both players back. There's a chance neither player is blown away by other offers, considering the glut of talented backs — free agents and veterans on the trading block — that is expected to become available in March. Samkon Gado (143 carries for 582 yards and six TDs) opened some eyes as a



A.J. HAWK | OHIO STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR GREEN BAY'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. LB A.J. HAWK	Ohio State
2. DE MARIO WILLIAMS	North Carolina St.
3. RB LAURENCE MARONEY	Minnesota
4. CB JIMMY WILLIAMS	Virginia Tech
5. OT ERIC WINSTON	Miami (Fla.)
6. RB JOSEPH ADDAI	LSU
7. OG ROB SIMS	Ohio State
8. DT JOHNNY JOLLY	Texas A&M
9. LB TIM DOBBINS	Iowa State
10. CB MARCUS MAXEY	Miami (Fla.)
11. OG CHRIS KUPER	North Dakota
12. CB DARRELL HUNTER	Miami (Ohio)

rookie, but Thompson didn't see enough of him to consider the position settled. Gado isn't a great receiver now, but he has speed and the explosiveness to break tackles.

2 LB The Packers were excited by the effort and speed OLB Brady Poppinga showed while playing mostly a backup role. Poppinga has a chance to start if Green Bay releases Na'il Diggs, who was limited to nine games with medial collateral ligament injuries to both knees. Neither was considered the best fit for Jim Bates' defensive

scheme. Nick Barnett set the single-season team record for tackles, but he also led the Packers in missed tackles. Some scouts believe Barnett is best-suited to play the weak side, a theory that could be put to the test if Thompson lands a top-notch middle linebacker.

3 DT NT Grady Jackson is a free agent, leaving the Packers very thin at the DT spots. Cullen Jenkins, Colin Cole and Corey Williams were in the DL rotation in 2005, but none is a pillar of the defense. Jackson can smother most centers with his size and was the ideal nose tackle for Bates' defense. The rest of the aforementioned DT lot lacks a real heavyweight, which might become a massive bargaining chip for Jackson.

4 CB It's too soon to classify 2004 first-round pick Ahmad Carroll as a bust. Considering he's superathletic and has top stopwatch speed, the Packers expected his natural ability to translate to the football field. That hasn't happened, and team observers say that Carroll, a terrific practice player with lauded work habits, hasn't learned to trust his skills or natural talent, which has made him an average cornerback on Sundays. Even with Carroll, the Packers want another proven cornerback without paying the rising market value for a free agent.

5 OL RT Mark Tauscher will be considered at guard if the Packers can find a stellar young tackle. Tauscher, whose contract expires at the end of the 2008 season, might also stay at right tackle if the Packers secure a suitable prospect at center or guard. Unrestricted free-agent C Mike Flanagan is not a lock to return, and the Packers' OG situation remains unsettled since losing Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle last offseason.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Thompson proved in 2005 that he believes in his board, not in drafting to fill holes on the roster. For example, few viewed the QB position as a pressing trouble spot last April, as compared to the thinned ranks on defense, but Thompson and the scouting staff reeled in Aaron Rodgers because he was the top-rated player on the Packers' draft board. Running back and linebacker might be top needs, but Thompson wields all of the power on Draft Day and won't succumb to fan or media pressure.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 GREEN BAY PACKERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	24	Aaron Rodgers	QB	California	Heir apparent to Favre threw zero TDs in 16 passes	3/0
2	51	Nick Collins	FS	Bethune-Cookman	Impressed with speed, range as rookie starter	16/16
2	58	Terrence Murphy	WR	Texas A&M	Bad knee spoiled camp; neck injury ended season	3/0
4	115	Marviel Underwood	FS	San Diego State	Made mark on special teams, could earn bigger role	16/0
4	125	Brady Poppinga	OLB-DE	Brigham Young	Showed promise at SLB spot before tearing ACL	12/1
5	143	Junius Coston	C	North Carolina A&T	Could be in the mix to replace C Mike Flanagan	1/0
5	167	Michael Hawkins	CB	ex-Oklahoma, AFL	Flashed enough to warrant a longer look	11/1
6	180	Mike Montgomery	DT-DE	Texas A&M	With more strength, could be an Al Wallace-type	12/0
6	195	Craig Bragg	WR	UCLA	Didn't make the 53-man roster, picked up by Bears	0/0
7	245	Kurt Campbell	SS	Albany State (N.Y.)	Failed to stick out in stifling competition at safety	0/0
7	246	Will Whitticker	OG	Michigan State	Won starting OG spot in camp; was just OK	15/14

SUMMARY ► OUTSIDE OF COLLINS AND MAYBE POPPINGA, THE PACKERS CAN ONLY WONDER WHAT THIS DRAFT CLASS WILL PROVIDE

NICK COLLINS



CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTSPICS

HOUSTON TEXANS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 2-14

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

Few teams have more needs to address than the Texans, whose roster was a lot more short on talent than it appeared to be entering the 2005 season. General manager Charley Casserly kept his job after Houston's awful campaign, but owner Robert McNair will be more active in personnel decisions. New head coach Gary Kubiak also figures to have a say. While NFL observers chatter about the Texans' plan for the first overall pick, the organization's free-agent blueprint also should be scrutinized closely. Houston simply cannot expect the draft to fix several seasons of personnel missteps. The Texans badly need to find veteran free agents who can step in and help the Texans become a more competitive team.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Houston Texans' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 | OT The Texans need to give their quarterback — whether it's David Carr, Vince Young or fill-in-the-blank — a fighting chance. Otherwise, they're buying, not leasing, in the AFC South basement. OLT Chester Pitts replaced the overwhelmed Seth Wand last season and did as well as he could, but he's best-suited at guard, not tackle. OLT



VINCE YOUNG TEXAS

The **HOT** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR HOUSTON'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. QB VINCE YOUNG	Texas
2. OT D'BICKASHAW FERGUSON	Virginia
3. OG DAVIN JOSEPH	Oklahoma
4. WR SINORICE MOSS	Miami (Fla.)
5. OLB THOMAS HOWARD	UTEP
6. FS PAT WATKINS	Florida State
7. WR MIKE HASS	Oregon State
8. TE T.J. WILLIAMS	North Carolina State
9. SS DWAYNE SLAY	Texas Tech
10. OG JAHRI EVANS	Bloomsburg (Pa.)
11. OLB WILLIAM KERSHAW	Maryland
12. OT JIMMY MARTIN	Virginia Tech

Todd Wade has been a disappointment since signing a five-year, \$25 million contract in 2004. However, finding a new set of tackles is easier said than done, especially with the Texans likely to spend the first overall pick on either RB Reggie Bush or Young. The Texans have been playing catch-up at the OT spots ever since Tony Boselli's career ended prematurely because of shoulder problems.

2 | WR The Texans lack a No. 2 receiver with the speed and consistency to take pressure off of Andre Johnson. They tried Jabar Gaffney and Corey Bradford as options opposite Johnson, but neither was a good fit. Both could be allowed to sign elsewhere in free agency. KR Jerome

Mathis has sprinter's speed but is unpolished as a receiver. The onus will be on the coaching staff to get more out of this group than in past seasons. A pass-catching tight end also would be a major help to the wideouts. The Texans primarily have required their tight ends to be blockers to give the leaky offensive line help.

3 | LB Dom Capers tried to install the 3-4 defense in Houston. Problem was, he never seemed to have the right personnel for the scheme, especially at line-backer. With the Texans moving to a 4-3 defense in 2006, a revamping of the LB depth chart seems in order. The Texans didn't get much at all out of OLBs Shantee Orr, Jason Babin and Antwan Peek in '05. Babin, who battled shoulder problems, might be best-suited as a 4-3 pass-rush specialist. The same could be said for Peek. Kailee Wong and Morlon Greenwood started inside in the 3-4 but have played outside in the 4-3 in the past.

4 | S The Texans have the makings of nice depth at safety. But will C.C. Brown or Glenn Earl be starters in the new scheme? Both had their moments last season, but both had their problems vs. the run and the pass. Still, both are young and athletic enough to remain on the roster. Veteran FS Marcus Coleman is unlikely to be back after a poor '05 season. A young, rangy replacement would be a major boost, especially when the Texans are in cover-2. Brown and Earl are likely to compete to start at strong safety if a replacement is signed or drafted.

5 | OG The Texans' OT woes are well-known, but the guards shouldn't get a pass. Left guard is a pressing need for Casserly, as Milford Brown and Fred Weary haven't made much of an impact in their time in Houston, and both are free agents. ORG Zach Wiegert is serviceable but not a star.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

McNair will make the call on the top pick, from all accounts. He has been frustrated by the team's recent personnel missteps, most notably trading second- and third-round picks for CB Phillip Buchanon, who was benched in only his second game in Houston. McNair will spend the money necessary to be competitive, but he's clearly tired of a lack of results for his money. Casserly has unearthed mid-round gems for the Texans (RB Domanick Davis, Mathis), but he needs to draft a strong, top-to-bottom class this year. He also must avoid overpaying for free agents; Wade and Greenwood jump to mind.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 HOUSTON TEXANS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	16	Travis Johnson	DT	Florida State	Wasn't a good fit as a 3-4 DE or a 4-3 DT	15/3
3	73	Vernand Morency	RB	Oklahoma State	Started finale vs. Niners; could he be trade bait?	13/1
4	114	Jerome Mathis	WR	Hampton	Scored two TDs on KRs; earned Pro Bowl berth	12/0
5	151	Lincoln "Drew" Hodgdon	C	Arizona State	Injured just as he was getting settled in lineup	4/3
6	188	C.C. Brown	SS	Louisiana-Lafayette	Versatile overachiever started at SS and FS	16/13
7	227	Kenneth Pettway	OLB	Grambling State	Spent most of December on the roster	0/0

SUMMARY ► MATHIS, BROWN WERE FINDS, BUT TEXANS PASSED ON LB DERRICK JOHNSON TO TAKE TRAVIS JOHNSON



JEROME MATHIS

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 14-2

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The unified power structure in Indianapolis — owner Jim Irsay, president Bill Polian and head coach Tony Dungy — faces a critical offseason, with decisions to make on core players on both sides of the ball. The Colts might not be able to afford to keep RB Edgerrin James and also lock up WR Reggie Wayne, both set to become unrestricted free agents, and must guard against losing restricted free-agent DE Robert Mathis. Plus, according to Polian, the Colts want to work out a new deal with DE Dwight Freeney soon.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Indianapolis Colts' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 RB Replacing James wouldn't be easy. Some assume that RB Dominic Rhodes is capable of filling the featured back role. But Rhodes is more of an outside runner with questions about his durability. However, he did run for 1,104 yards and nine touchdowns in 10 starts as a rookie. As long as QB Peyton Manning and WR Marvin Harrison are around, not many teams will focus on the Colts' ballcarriers, and plugging in a rookie wouldn't create pause in the front office. James, though, is very dependable as an



PARYS HARALSON | TENNESSEE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR INDIANAPOLIS' SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. RB LAURENCE MARONEY	Minnesota
2. LB DOMENICO RYANS	Alabama
3. DE PARYS HARALSON	Tennessee
4. LB D'QWELL JACKSON	Maryland
5. OLB-SS JON ALSTON	Stanford
6. CB-FS ALAN ZEMAITIS	Penn State
7. OT QUINN OJINAKA	Syracuse
8. DE ELVIS DUMERVIL	Louisville
9. FS ROMAN HARPER	Alabama
10. LB TRAVIS WILLIAMS	Auburn
11. OG JASON MURPHY	Virginia Tech
12. RB P.J. DANIELS	Georgia Tech

every-down back who has a tremendous rapport with Manning and Dungy.

2 OLB Depth at linebacker is a strength in terms of sheer numbers, but the Colts don't have the proven veteran talent to absorb an injury to MLB Gary Brackett or WLB Cato June. SLB David Thornton enters free agency with a chance to return, but recent history says Polian won't overpay to keep him. The Jaguars (Mike Peterson) and Redskins (Marcus Washington) paid top dollar to pluck two other OLB starters from

Indianapolis in the last three years. Thornton isn't a great fit in the cover-2 defense.

3 OLT Tarik Glenn can make a combined \$8.15 million in base salary in 2006 and '07. He's entering his 10th season, and some scouts believe Glenn slipped in '05. He's athletic and fits the offensive system, but the Colts are feeling the need to insure Manning by improving the O-line. C Jeff Saturday, signed through '08, made the Pro Bowl but needs more help at the OG spots, where the Colts are using average personnel.

4 DE Raheem Brock started at the DLE spot this season, but the unrestricted free agent-to-be could be replaced by a number of players on the Colts' roster. Mathis is undersized, though much improved, and might get a chance. But the system requires more depth at the position, and Dungy prefers a rotation to keep fresh bodies at all four spots. There is a chance Freeney moves to the left side and Mathis steps in on the right, but the Colts liked using Mathis against less-athletic right tackles, who often struggled to get their hands on the explosive Mathis. Indy also has a mini-Mathis in Jonathan Welsh, a fifth-round pick in '05 with great speed.

5 FS Mike Doss is more of a strong safety, a role occupied by Pro Bowler Bob Sanders. Doss was passable in coverage, but the Colts' pass defense would be bolstered by more of a ballhawk in the deep middle. Dungy and Polian have been very successful projecting college athletes to different positions in the NFL. Dungy moved college S Cato June to weak-side linebacker and later shifted college CB Joseph Jefferson to the FS spot in training camp a year ago. The Colts wouldn't shy away from drafting a cornerback who might be able to play safety.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Polian accepts input from all directions. Thorough reports from his area scouts give Polian a starting point, and both Dungy and Irsay do evaluate college talent. On draft day, the Colts strive to reach a consensus opinion, but Polian is the ultimate trigger man. His teams almost always net able-bodied prospects in the middle and late rounds of the draft and rarely wind up with the biggest names from the college game.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	29	Marlin Jackson	CB	Michigan	Held off by pesky Jason David for starting RCB job	15/1
2	60	Kelvin Hayden	CB	Illinois	Another physical corner who fits cover-2 scheme	16/0
3	92	Vincent Burns	DE	Kentucky	"Sweet Pea" had fine camp at DT but suffered injury	0/0
4	129	Dylan Gandy	OG-C	Texas Tech	Won OLG job in camp; injury made him a backup	16/2
4	135	Matt Giordano	FS	California	Fine special-teams player and sure tackler	15/0
5	148	Jonathan Welsh	DE	Wisconsin	Colts hope he becomes an impact pass rusher	6/0
5	165	Robert Hunt	C	North Dakota St.	Needed to get bigger; was released in August	0/0
5	173	Tyjuan Hagler	OLB	Cincinnati	Run-and-hit guy with a future in the middle	0/0
6	202	Dave Rayner	PK	Michigan State	Inconsistent on kickoffs, ended up on practice squad	14/0
7	243	Anthony Davis	RB	Wisconsin	Midget runner didn't stick with RB-rich club	0/0

SUMMARY ► SEVEN PICKS TARGETED TO IMPROVE DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS PAID DIVIDENDS, TURNED UP A FEW STARTERS



MARLIN JACKSON

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 12-4

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Jaguars' progression under head coach Jack Del Rio continued in 2005. After going 9-7 in '04, Jacksonville returned to the postseason for the first time since 1999, matching the all-time wild-card best mark of 12-4. Jacksonville no longer is rebuilding. But the team's ultimate goal can be complicated by the AFC South divisional alignment, which includes the NFL's supreme regular-season team from '05, Indianapolis. Del Rio's defense is the team's dominant unit, but both sides of the ball could be improved with multiple upgrades.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Jacksonville Jaguars' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 | TE A first-round pick of the Jets in 1995, Kyle Brady could be on the verge of being bounced after 11 seasons, the past seven with the Jags. Signed through the 2006 season, Brady has shaky hands and is only a modest receiver at this point in his career. As a blocker, though, he is extremely effective and almost serves as a third offensive tackle for the Jaguars' run-first offense. Offensive coordinator Carl Smith might be more inclined to open up the offense if QB Byron Leftwich had a reliable target in the middle of the field.

2 | OLB The Jaguars want fast runners and sure tacklers at the OLB spots, as they employ the cover-2 defense and demand linebackers to stick to



ERNE SIMS | FLORIDA STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR JACKSONVILLE'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OLD ERNIE SIMS	Florida State
2. OG DAVIN JOSEPH	Oklahoma
3. TE MARCEDES LEWIS	UCLA
4. OLB ROCKY MCINTOSH	Miami (Fla.)
5. TE DOMINIQUE BYAD	USC
6. CB CEDRIC GRIFFIN	Texas
7. DE-OLB MANNY LAWSON	N. Carolina St.
8. OLB JAMAR WILLIAMS	Arizona State
9. CB JOHN WALKER	USC
10. OG KEVIN BOOTHIE	Cornell
11. OLB WILLIAM KERSHAW	Maryland
12. DT TONY MCDANIEL	Tennessee

receivers, backs and tight ends at the hip. Daryl Smith and Akin Ayodele left something to be desired with inconsistent play on the outside last season. Smith had a few bright moments, but his tackling isn't a strong suit. Ayodele, a free agent, almost is assured to play 2006 with another team. Del Rio wouldn't mind a hybrid OLB-DE to use as a pass-rush specialist without making substitutions.

3 | OG Not only did Leftwich take way too many hits — he fractured his left ankle on Nov. 27 at Arizona and missed five games — but the Jaguars never found a rhythm, as injury and ineffectiveness led to multiple changes on the offen-

sive line. Rookie OLT Khalif Barnes was the team's best blocker. But the three interior OL positions are up for grabs. C Brad Meester might not be ready to return by training camp following a biceps injury. OLG Vince Manuwai and ORG Chris Naeole were inconsistent. If the Jaguars can find a powerful mauler in the mold of Steelers OG Alan Faneca, they would consider him in Round One.

4 | DE We mentioned the possibility of Del Rio implementing a LB-DE hybrid as a specialist, a role Jorge Cordova was drafted to fill in 2004. The preference would be to find a speed rusher to hold down the DRE spot. The Jaguars' D-line can get leverage and dominate at the point of attack with power and size, but it lacks an explosive force on the outside. DLE Reggie Hayward led the team in sacks in '05 after joining the club in free agency. The Jaguars have said that keeping DT John Henderson from free agency is a top priority, and if they fear they won't be able to sign him long-term, the DT position could become a much higher priority than defensive end.

5 | CB LCB Rashean Mathis signed a contract extension in 2005, but the Jaguars are unsettled at the RCB and nickel CB positions. The hope is that '05 third-round pick Scott Starks can fill one role, but Starks was abused in extended playing time in the preseason. RCB Kenny Wright was hot and cold as the starter last season, but he's a free agent who Jacksonville doesn't plan to fight to keep unless the price is exactly right. Cover-2 cornerbacks often can be found in the middle rounds, so the Jaguars don't have to jump to land the right player early.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Vice president of player personnel James Harris can't be described as a power monger, and he actually involves his entire scouting and coaching staff in detailed, position-specific draft evaluation. Harris carries the baton in the front office, serving as de facto general manager and trigger man on draft day. Harris grew up in the Ravens' personnel department, where he and Del Rio became acquaintances, and believes in the Baltimore — read: Ozzie Newsome's — draft philosophy of targeting the best players who fit the system.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	21	Matt Jones	WR	Arkansas	Project played role as slot receiver, playmaker	16/1
2	52	Khalif Barnes	OT	Washington	Quickly became Jaguars' most consistent O-lineman	13/12
3	87	Scott Starks	CB	Wisconsin	Penalties, lack of size held him back from the outset	16/0
4	127	Alvin Pearson	RB	Virginia	Third-down specialist, returner made a contribution	16/0
5	157	Gerald Sensabaugh	SS	North Carolina	Strong special-teamer found starting lineup	16/3
6	185	Chad Owens	WR	Hawaii	Drafted as return specialist; might get chance in '05	0/0
6	194	Pat Thomas	ILB	North Carolina St.	Big, versatile; drafted to improve special teams	9/0
7	237	Chris Roberson	CB	Eastern Michigan	Had just one year as college CB; team likes upside	6/0

SUMMARY ▶ TOP TWO PICKS LOOK LIKE KEEPERS; REST OF THE LOT HAD SOME IMPACT ON SPECIAL TEAMS



KHALIF BARNES

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 10-6

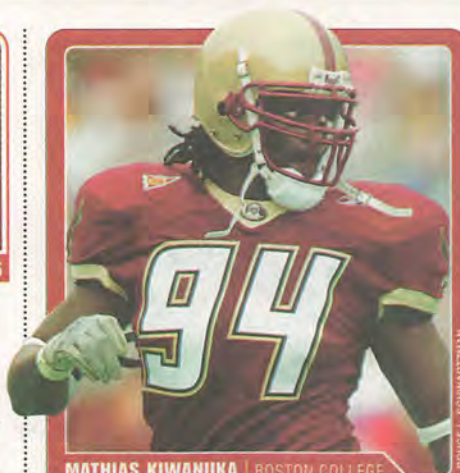
OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

With Dick Vermeil settling into retirement, Herman Edwards moved from the Jets to the Chiefs to take over for his mentor. Edwards faces the challenge of bringing the defense to a level that will push Kansas City into the playoffs. The offense is one of the league's elite and figures to stay that way given RB Larry Johnson's bright future. The defense, however, still needs some work to keep up with the high-flying offenses that call the AFC home. Look for the defensive line to be addressed early, and the secondary should get a long look as well, especially with the defensive-minded Edwards in charge. The Chiefs have spent draft picks and free-agency dollars on the offensive line the past couple years, but surefire replacements for future Hall of Famers Willie Roaf and Will Shields have yet to be found.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Kansas City Chiefs' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 DL Edwards should be well aware of the need for a true difference-maker up front for the Chiefs. Major moves were made to improve the LB corps and secondary prior to last season, but the defensive line was left untouched. It came back to haunt the team. With Ryan Sims failing to live up to his first-round hype and Junior Siavii, another highly drafted youngster, barely part of the rotation, it would appear that a defensive tack-



MATHIAS KIWANUKA | BOSTON COLLEGE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR KANSAS CITY'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. DE MATHIAS KIWANUKA	Boston College
2. DE TAMBA HALL	Penn State
3. CB KELLY JENNINGS	Miami (Fla.)
4. SS DARNELL BING	USC
5. CB-FS JASON ALLEN	Tennessee
6. S ANTHONY SMITH	Syracuse
7. WR CORY RODGERS	Texas Christian
8. DT JOHNNY JOLLY	Texas A&M
9. OG JAHRI EVANS	Bloomsburg (Pa.)
10. WR CHRIS FRANCIES	UTEP
11. OT DONALD PENN	Utah State
12. C LANCE ANTOLICK	Penn State

le who can collapse the pocket and occupy blockers is the more pressing concern. That said, help off the edge opposite promising DE Jared Allen would be nice as well.

2 WR This long has been considered a weakness in Kansas City that some feel only has been halfheartedly dealt with, when instead it should have been made a priority. Samie Parker came on a bit down the stretch in his second year, and Eddie Kennison is a crafty veteran who quietly puts up solid numbers. But neither should be considered a No. 1 target. The Chiefs need an athletic, downfield presence to

keep defenses from focusing so much on the running game and TE Tony Gonzalez. With Sylvester Morris, Snoop Minnis and Crapthonso Thorpe, the Chiefs haven't exactly struck gold when they have used their draft picks on receivers lately, so it might be a mix of the draft and free agency in '06.

3 S Kansas City is lacking here in regard to proven backups, and its starters — Sammy Knight and Greg Wesley — aren't what you would call complete defenders. Knight is a great leader and a big hitter, but he is approaching the end of his career and is very much a liability in coverage. Wesley is capable of the big game, but he tends to give up as many big plays as he makes. With the aggressive style of defense Gunther Cunningham prefers, a complete safety who's as likely to sack the quarterback and support the run as he is to break up a deep pass would be ideal.

4 OL The Chiefs need to prepare themselves to lose two future Hall of Famers on the offensive line within the next year or two. They may lose one — Pro Bowl OG Will Shields — before next August if he decides to retire, which wouldn't be a surprise. They also will have to come up with a left tackle of the future before Willie Roaf calls it quits. Youngster Jordan Black is considered a better fit at right tackle, and Chris Bober or John Welbourn could replace Shields inside, but questions remain overall, and depth is a concern.

5 CB Aging veterans Dexter McCleon and Dewayne Washington were Vermeil favorites who might not survive the coaching change. Combine that with the fact the Chiefs don't exactly know what they have in youngsters like Benny Sapp, Julian Battle and Alphonso Hodge, and you can see why the team will be on the lookout for able bodies who can cover. Starters Patrick Surtain and Eric Warfield should be OK, but adequate depth is a must.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

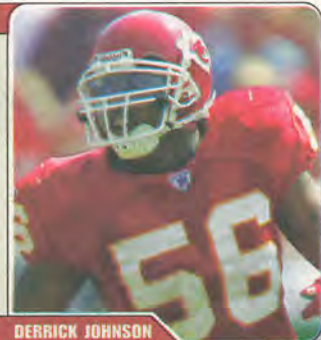
President/general manager Carl Peterson calls the shots and has a reliable supporting cast in personnel gurus Dennis Thum and Lynn Stiles. It wouldn't be a shock to see Edwards gain a significant voice in personnel matters considering his extensive relationship with Peterson and Kansas City's respected scouting staff.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	15	Derrick Johnson	OLB	Texas	A huge asset, but not as many big plays as expected	16/16
3	99	Dustin Colquitt	P	Tennessee	Near the bottom of the NFL with a 39.4-yard average	16/0
4	116	Crapthonso Thorpe	WR	Florida State	Spent most of the season on the practice squad	0/0
5	138	James "Boomer" Grigsby	ILB	Illinois State	A small LB, but decent contributor on special teams	16/0
5	147	Alphonso Hodge	CB	Miami (Ohio)	Could have a role next season if progress is shown	0/0
6	187	Will Svitek	OT	Stanford	No factor as a rookie but could be part of the future	1/0
6	199	Khari Long	DE	Baylor	No factor; eventually released and signed by Bears	1/0
7	229	James Killian	QB	Tulsa	Released after camp, recently re-signed in January	0/0
7	238	Jeremy Parquet	OT	So. Mississippi	Same as Svitek above	0/0

SUMMARY ► THE '05 DRAFT WAS JOHNSON, COLQUITT AND NOT MUCH ELSE; A LOT OF PROJECTS ELSEWHERE

DERRICK JOHNSON



DULIP VISWANATHAN/SPORTSPICS

MIAMI DOLPHINS



OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Dolphins made great strides in head coach Nick Saban's first season at the helm but know they still have pieces to add to become a Super Bowl contender. The biggest need is at quarterback — a position considered by Saban to be crucial to getting the team to the next step. Though the offensive line, with basically the same players from 2004, gave up 26 sacks this season, exactly half the number it allowed in '04, it needs upgrading and will be addressed. The CB, DT and OLB spots also are areas of need.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Miami Dolphins' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 QB While veteran Gus Frerotte played much better by season's end under the tutelage of offensive coordinator Scott Linehan, the Dolphins were frustrated by his inconsistency as a passer and know they must upgrade the position in order to take the next step as a team. Backup Sage Rosenfels had his moments but is limited and likely won't be back. As a result, the Dolphins would like to bring in a young quarterback to eventually be installed as their starter. Picking at No. 16 makes getting a QB with their first pick difficult, but Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler may be a guy they would be willing to trade up to get.

2 OLT The offensive line improved tremendously under ace O-line coach Hudson Houck, but the OT position was a trouble spot for much of the season. For a time early in the season, Miami used a three-player rotation at both OT spots, using combinations of Damion McIntosh, Ver-



KAMERION WIMBLEY | FLORIDA STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR MIAMI'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. QB JAY CUTLER	Vanderbilt
2. DE KAMERION WIMBLEY	Florida State
3. CB ASHTON YOUNG	Ohio State
4. CB RICHARD MARSHALL	Fresno State
5. DT GARE WATSON	Michigan
6. OG TAITUSI "DEUCE" LUTUI	USC
7. DT BABATUNDE OSHINOWO	Stanford
8. OT RASHAD BUTLER	Miami (Fla.)
9. DE JULIAN JENKINS	Stanford
10. QB TARVARIS JACKSON	Alabama State
11. CB-RS WILL BLACKMON	Boston College
12. DT ALVIN SMITH	Oregon State

non Carey and Stockar McDougle before finally settling on McIntosh at the OLT spot and Carey at the ORT spot. McDougle was a disappointment and could be let go. Carey, a former first-round pick, seemed to fit well on the right side as the season wore on. The team would like to upgrade the OLT spot and believes McIntosh would be best-suited as a backup.

3 CB Veteran Sam Madison looks to be a salary-cap casualty this offseason, considering he carries a high price tag and is on the wrong side of 30. He also struggled with the new defensive system that calls for more zone defending and expects more run support from its corners. Rookie Travis Daniels, who had the built-in advantage

of having played for Saban at LSU, made steady progress throughout the season and should be a dependable starter for years to come. Will Poole returns after missing all of last season with a knee injury. The team likes him but doesn't know if it can rely on him right away. Reggie Howard improved as the season wore on but has a high cap number and could be let go. There is a need for a physical corner who can play outside.

4 OG C Seth McKinney is a free agent and likely won't be re-signed. Rex Hadnot moved over to the center position late in the season and did well enough to hold onto the position heading into next season. As a result, Miami will be looking for a starting right guard to bolster the interior of the line. Ex-OLT Wade Smith, who missed all of the 2005 season with an arm injury, will also be back and in the mix inside. No matter what, the depth needs to improve.

5 DT The Dolphins were delighted with the top-quality play they got from free-agent signer Keith Traylor. But they also know that he's on borrowed time at the age of 36. Fellow veteran DT Vonnie Holliday also played well, but he, too, is a stopgap. 2005 rookie Manuel Wright (acquired in the supplemental draft) showed great promise on the practice field as the season wore on and will be in the DT rotation mix, along with fellow rookie Kevin Vickerson, in '06. That being said, Miami will look to add another big, run-stuffing D-tackle to groom for the future.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Saban places a high value on draft picks and believes in building through the draft. His first draft with the Dolphins was a boon, netting three first-year starters and a couple of other players with starting potential. For the '05 draft, Saban drew on his collegiate experience by choosing three players from the Southeastern Conference, including one from his former school, LSU. He also took a player from Michigan State (where he coached prior to LSU), and one from friend Kirk Ferentz's Iowa team. Saban proved he has a discerning eye and a talent for bringing in players who fit his system. The coach is ably assisted by GM Randy Mueller and executive assistant Scott O'Brien, Saban's right-hand man. The Dolphins look for players using the same criteria that the Patriots do under Bill Belichick, seeking the attributes and qualities that best fit the complex system shared by New England and Miami.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 MIAMI DOLPHINS RECAP

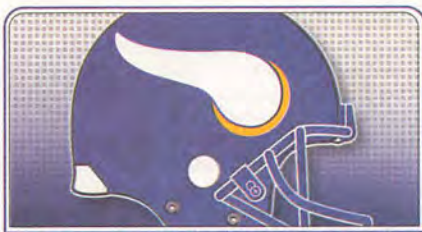
RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	2	Ronnie Brown	RB	Auburn	After slow start, proved to be strong runner, receiver	15/14
2	46	Matt Roth	DE	Iowa	Contributed to DE rotation, solid on special teams	16/0
3	70	Channing Crowder	ILB	Florida	Rising star, believed to be successor to Zach Thomas	16/13
4	104	Travis Daniels	CB	LSU	Emerged as starter, makes Sam Madison expendable	16/14
5	162	Anthony Alabi	OT	Texas Christian	Learning year on bench, but team likes his upside	0/0
7	216	Kevin Vickerson	NT	Michigan State	Expected to be big part of DT rotation in '06	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ NICK SABAN'S FIRST DRAFT WITH MIAMI PRODUCED THREE ROOKIE STARTERS. DOLPHINS' TOP ROOKIE CLASS SINCE '96



RONNIE BROWN

MINNESOTA VIKINGS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 9-7

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

The Vikings have a fresh start under Brad Childress, hired by ownership to replace Mike Tice as head coach. Hiring Childress, whose five-year deal is fully guaranteed, represents what owner Zygi Wilf called a change in atmosphere. Minnesota scrapped its front-office-by-committee, but authority is to be split between Childress, vice president Rob Brzezinski and de facto general manager Fran Foley. There also will be drastically new systems in place, with the Vikings adopting principles of the Eagles' offense and Buccaneers' defense. Thus, the team will be seeking a different type of player to fit those new schemes.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Minnesota Vikings' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/LB Numbers aren't a problem, but none of the plethora of LB options are perfect matches for what new defensive coordinator Mike Tomlin wants from a player at the position. Tomlin doesn't have one three-down linebacker in the lot. SLB Napoleon Harris and WLB Dontarrious Thomas were highly regarded as draft picks, but neither has lived up to his potential as a pro. Tomlin came from Tampa Bay; he won't lean entirely on a cover-2 system, but he'll demand his linebackers have instincts and the ability to hold up in coverage.

2/RB Childress was the RB coach at Wisconsin when Michael Bennett signed with the Badgers. The speedster is eligible to test the open market,



CHAD GREENWAY | IOWA

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR MINNESOTA'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. OLB CHAD GREENWAY	Iowa
2. OLB ERNIE SIMS	Florida State
3. OG MAX JEAN-GILLES	Georgia
4. OG ROB SIMS	Ohio State
5. SS DWAYNE SLAY	Texas Tech
6. RB DONTRELL MOORE	New Mexico
7. QB D.J. SHOCKLEY	Georgia
8. OT BRAD BUTLER	Virginia
9. OLB KEITH ELLISON	Oregon State
10. SS SCOTT WARE	USC
11. RB TAUREAN HENDERSON	Texas Tech
12. OLB BRANDON JOHNSON	Louisville

but odds are he'll listen intently if Childress wants him to stick around. Bennett isn't the receiver Eagles RB Brian Westbrook was in Childress' offense, but he can do some of the same things in the running game. Although the former coaching staff pined for a big-time, every-down back, Childress depends more on the passing game to make life easier on a running back. Nevertheless, the Vikings don't know if Mewelde Moore can hold up physically, and they might not be able to count on the return of Onterio Smith — suspended by the NFL for the entire 2005 season — or Bennett. Rookie Ciatrick Fason has upside, but is a bit of a square peg in a round hole if Childress sticks with the Philadelphia

blueprint on offense.

3/OL In his introductory press conference, Childress made it clear he wanted to bolster the offensive line. OLT Bryant McKinnie was the most consistent offensive lineman last season and won't be replaced, but there is some debate as to who best fits with the first-string O-line. C Matt Birk (hip) didn't play a snap in the '05 regular season; OLG Chris Liwinski was benched for free agent Tونی Fonoti; Melvin Fowler and Cory Withrow rotated at center; ORT Mike Rosenthal and ORGs Adam Goldberg and Marcus Johnson were shuffled throughout the season. Tice preferred mauling street-fighters in the trenches, whereas Childress seeks a lighter fleet of blockers.

4/SS Unrestricted free agent Corey Chavous wasn't pleased that the Vikings were unable to come up with a suitable contract and plans to test the market. The former cornerback is more of a free safety anyway, and the Vikings were extremely pleased last year by the play of Darren Sharper in the FS spot. In Tampa Bay, Tomlin came to appreciate a strong safety as a player who was more of a run-stuffer capable of playing close to the line of scrimmage or patrolling the middle of the two-deep zone, when necessary.

5/QB This coaching staff is all too familiar with the temperamental nature of the position. With Daunte Culpepper coming back from reconstructive knee surgery and the mindset of aging backup Brad Johnson a concern, Childress wants to find a suitable, reliable backup. At presstime, Culpepper was pushing for a big-money contract extension, leaving open the possibility that the Vikings might trade or release the veteran if discussions become acrimonious. The system demands mobility and accuracy as the most desirable traits. In Philadelphia, Childress helped shape A.J. Feeley, Koy Detmer and Mike McMahon behind Donovan McNabb.

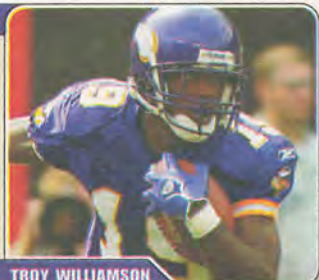
THE
DECISIONMAKERS

Wilf vows to be more involved in key decisions than he was during his first year on the job. However, Wilf won't interject his opinion unless Childress wants it. Wilf put Childress at the head of the table in the Vikings' war room for a reason, creating a structure in which both Brzezinski and Foley answer to Childress.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 MINNESOTA VIKINGS RECAP

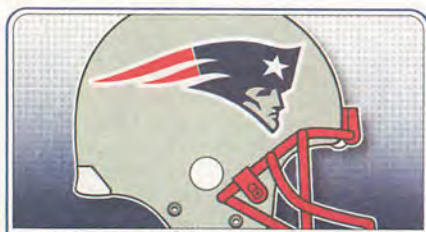
RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	7	Troy Williamson	WR	South Carolina	Very young, raw and explosive (15.5-yard average)	14/3
1	18	Erasmus James	DE	Wisconsin	Came on strong down stretch; has 12-sack potential	15/9
2	49	Marcus Johnson	OT	Mississippi	Prone to penalties, wound up in Tice's doghouse	14/8
3	80	Dustin Fox	CB-FS	Ohio State	Showed up only on the depth chart at strong safety	0/0
4	112	Ciatrick Fason	RB	Florida	Had a nice game or two as a goal-line runner	13/0
6	191	C.J. Mosley	DT	Missouri	Looks like a find if effort remains a non-issue	12/2
7	219	Adrian Ward	CB	Texas-El Paso	Trimmed from roster in final roster cutdown	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ TOP THREE PICKS CONTRIBUTED: JAMES AND WILLIAMSON ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE PRO BOWL ABILITY



TROY WILLIAMSON

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 10-6

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Patriots got all they could out of the 2005 season after sustaining a number of debilitating injuries. They won a weakened AFC East division for the third straight season and won a playoff game before their remarkable postseason winning streak was snapped at nine games by Denver in the divisional round. Two major areas of weakness that plagued the team throughout the season were the lack of a running attack and a vulnerability vs. the deep pass. Those are two of the team's top priorities to shore up for '06.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the New England Patriots' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 CB The team went through its second straight injury-plagued season at the CB position — a situation that severely limited the amount of blitzing and exotic looks head coach Bill Belichick could use. The Pats often had to rely on inexperienced or limited players, and it made them extremely vulnerable against top passing teams like the Chargers, Broncos, Chiefs and Colts. They finished as the 31st-ranked defense in pass yardage allowed, were 30th in average gain per pass play and grabbed only 10 interceptions. The Pats must find a top cover corner to match up against No. 1 receivers — something they have lacked without Ty Law. Rookie Ellis Hobbs has promise, but he's too small to be a No. 1 corner. Randall Gay, Asante Samuel, Tyrone Poole, Chad Scott and the disappointing Duane Starks also don't fit the profile.

2 WR With David Givens becoming an unrestricted free agent and with Troy Brown a strong candidate to retire, it won't be a surprise if the Patriots add



DeMeco Ryans | ALABAMA

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR NEW ENGLAND'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE

1. **S-CB DONTÉ WHITNER** | Ohio State
2. **LB DeMeco RYANS** | Alabama
3. **CB RICHARD MARSHALL** | Fresno State
4. **LB BOBBY CARPENTER** | Ohio State
5. **RB JOSEPH ADDAI** | LSU
6. **WR MAURICE STOVALL** | Notre Dame
7. **FS ROMAN HARPER** | Alabama
8. **DE ROB NINKOVICH** | Purdue
9. **LB KAI PARHAM** | Virginia
10. **WR GREG JENNINGS** | Western Michigan
11. **FS CALVIN LOWRY** | Penn State
12. **WR ED HINKEL** | Iowa

to their WR corps in the draft. They currently don't have a No. 2 receiver on the roster to line up opposite Deion Branch, and if Givens gets a big offer from elsewhere it's unlikely the Pats will pay top dollar to keep him. Speed is a big attribute for New England at the WR position, so the player they choose must be able to stretch the field. Toughness is also important, with a willingness to go over the middle and a desire to block in the running game. They will likely look to grab a receiver from a college that employs a pro passing game.

3 S Even more than the injury troubles at cornerback, the season-ending loss of Rodney Harrison in Week Three was a

crushing blow to the Patriots' defense. At 33 and coming off major knee surgery, Harrison is no lock to return to the level at which he once played. The team was forced to use a succession of street free agents (Arturo Freeman, Michael Stone and Artrell Hawkins) and unproven youngsters (James Sanders and Guss Scott) after Harrison went down. But they all paled in comparison. The team needs a physical player who can cover, play the run and is an effective blitz.

4 LB Though he proved he still has something left in the tank in the playoff win over Jacksonville, OLB Willie McGinest turned 34 in December. Tedy Bruschi also isn't getting any younger and turns 33 in June. With Mike Vrabel proving he could play effectively inside, Monty Beisel improving late in the season, and Ryan Claridge returning from a season-ending injury, the Pats have some flexibility as far as adding a young outside 'backer or an inside 'backer to groom for the future.

5 RB The Patriots must seriously evaluate their running game after struggling to run the ball for much of the season and putting too much of the onus on QB Tom Brady, who set a career high in passing yards. Why did they fall to 24th in rushing yards per game and 30th in average gain per rush? Was it because of injuries to Corey Dillon and Kevin Faulk? Was it because of an unsettled offensive line that often featured two rookie starters on the left side? Was it because of poor play-calling? Was it because the 31-year-old Dillon has lost a step? With all these factors coming into play, a young running back looks to be a draft priority.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

The team of Belichick and VP/player personnel Scott Pioli is arguably the best in the league. They are totally in sync and on the same page with regard to player evaluation and assessing talent that best fits their system. The Patriots have shown they're not afraid to take players earlier than others may expect if they believe that player projects to be a great fit for them. The Patriots also are adept at moving up or down in the draft in order to get the players they want. They love to acquire draft picks in order to give them the ability to wheel and deal should they so choose.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	32	Logan Mankins	OG	Fresno State	Tough blocker took over starting job from Day One	16/16
3	84	Ellis Hobbs	CB	Iowa State	Got break due to injury, impressed with fearlessness	16/8
3	100	Nick Kaczur	OG-OT	Toledo	Fared well after being thrust into starting OLT spot	14/11
4	133	James Sanders	SS	Fresno State	Pats like his size, ability, but he struggled with injury	10/2
5	170	Ryan Claridge	OLB	UNLV	Missed season with shoulder injury; has ideal size	0/0
7	230	Matt Cassel	QB	USC	Impressed in preseason; two TD passes in Week 17	2/0
7	255	Andy Stokes	TE	William Penn	Cut early in training camp	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ TOP THREE PICKS WERE STARTERS BY SEASON'S END, AND CASSEL LOOKS LIKE SOLID QB PROSPECT



NICK KACZUR

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 3-13

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Saints will try to rebound from their dismal 3-13 run last season by making changes at two key positions. Gone is head coach Jim Haslett, replaced by Sean Payton. QB Aaron Brooks might be next on the chopping block. The Saints will lean heavily on the draft to try to regain their standing among the NFC South's elite. It will be interesting to see how many free agents the unsettled Saints will attract. They will be returning to New Orleans next season after spending last season in San Antonio after Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of The Big Easy. But for now, the Saints only are committed to New Orleans for one year, and that uncertainty could prevent free agents from signing long-term deals with the Saints.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the New Orleans Saints' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 QB Brooks had been the Saints' starter since 2000, but he was benched for the final three games last season after erratic play. Brooks still has two years left on his contract, but he seems to have finally worn out his welcome and likely will be traded or released. Career backup Todd Bouman showed little potential in his brief audition as the Saints' starter. Adrian McPherson was a project when they selected him in the fifth round last year, and he likely won't be a serious threat to start for a few more years. With the No. 2 overall pick, expect the Saints to be in the market for either USC's Matt Leinart, Texas' Vince Young or Vandy's Jay Cutler; Leinart or Cutler appear more likely



MATT LEINART | USC

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR NEW ORLEANS' SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. QB MATT LEINART	USC
2. DT JOHN MCCARGO	North Carolina St.
3. WR SINORICE MOSS	Miami (Fla.)
4. LB ABDUL HODGE	Iowa
5. C-OG CHRIS CHESTER	Oklahoma
6. DT JONATHAN LEWIS	Virginia Tech
7. WR JONATHAN ORR	Wisconsin
8. OG-C JASON SPITZ	Louisville
9. DT OREN HARRIS	Miami (Fla.)
10. RB LEON WASHINGTON	Florida State
11. WR DEVIN AROMASHODU	Auburn
12. OG-DT DERRICK MORRIS	North Carolina St.

than Young. They probably also will sign a veteran who can hold down the fort while their rookie QB learns the ropes.

2 MLB The LB spots have been the Saints' most glaring weaknesses for a couple of years now, especially in the middle. After crossing their fingers and hoping a trio of young linebackers would pan out last year, it's back to the drawing board for the Saints. They need to acquire an impact player in the middle, and they probably will fill this void through free agency. Drafting another linebacker is a possibility, but they have their hands full with several inexperienced 'back-

ers at the moment.

3 OL The Saints have several serviceable starters along the O-line but only two dynamic players: Pro Bowl C LeCharles Bentley and ORT Jammal Brown, who just completed his rookie year. Bentley is a free agent and will command big money on the open market, which means his chances of re-signing with New Orleans are slim. So the Saints are looking to upgrade at any of the O-line positions, and they likely will do so through the draft, where they selected Brown with a first-round pick a year ago.

4 WR Up until last season, this was a position of strength and depth. Now, the Saints need to decide if they are happy with their current makeup. Veteran Joe Horn just completed his worst campaign as a Saint, one where he was plagued in the early part of the season by a hamstring injury and finished the year, with only one touchdown. Donté Stallworth is emerging as a possible No. 1 target after leading the team in catches and touchdowns. Horn signed a six-year, \$42-million deal last year, so it's unlikely he's going anywhere soon. No. 3 WR Devery Henderson has underperformed as well. This appears to be a position the Saints would like to pad with depth through the draft.

5 DT The Saints boast an embarrassment of riches at end, but their interior D-line isn't as secure. The Saints' two DT starters in 2005, Brian Young and Willie Whitehead, are aging and declining in production. Whitehead is a free agent and likely won't return. Johnathan Sullivan didn't start a game last season, but he showed enough promise in his reserve role to merit a look as a starter next year. The Saints will look for reinforcements in the draft.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

When it comes to personnel decisions in New Orleans, it is often a collaborative effort. General manager Mickey Loomis technically makes the final decision, but when Haslett was still around, Loomis often deferred to Haslett. Payton will have input, but because Payton is a first-time head coach, he might defer to Loomis on personnel matters. This will be Loomis' chance to leave his mark on the team, because stars such as Horn and RB Deuce McAllister were already in place when he arrived.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	13	Jammal Brown	OT	Oklahoma	Impressive rookie campaign; finishes his blocks well	13/13
2	40	Josh Bullocks	FS	Nebraska	Was a pleasant surprise after Jay Bellamy got hurt	16/13
3	82	Alfred Fincher	ILB	Connecticut	Failed to seize golden opportunity for playing time	11/0
4	118	Chase Lyman	WR	California	Suffered season-ending knee injury in minicamp	0/0
5	152	Adrian McPherson	QB	ex-Florida St., AFL	Still a long way off from earning playing time	0/0
6	193	Jason Jefferson	DT-NT	Wisconsin	Cut by the Saints in training camp; signed with Bills	5/0
7	232	Jimmy Verdon	DT-DE	Arizona State	Intriguing prospect who finally debuted in December	4/0

SUMMARY THE SAINTS DISCOVERED TWO STARTERS — BROWN AND BULLOCKS — BUT THE CLASS OF '05 PROVIDED LITTLE ELSE

JAMMAL BROWN



CHRIS BERNACCHI/SPORTSPICS

NEW YORK GIANTS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

Though the season ended in disappointing fashion with a 23-0 home playoff loss to the Panthers, head coach Tom Coughlin correctly pointed out that the Giants' 11 wins were an unexpected total in what should be viewed as a positive season overall. What's strange is that there appeared to be a better feeling heading into last offseason, despite winning only six games in 2004, because the team finished on such a high note. After a strong offseason last year that saw the signing of several major — and successful — free agents, things should be a little more tame with about \$10 million in salary-cap room, but a full slate of draft picks should offset last season's grand total of four.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the New York Giants' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 CB Will Allen started 16 games. Curtis Deloatch played in 13, most as a starter. Rookie Corey Webster was the nickel back and was on the field a lot. Combined, they had one interception. That's bad. With Allen a free agent who's not guaranteed to return and fellow starter William Peterson in serious question with back concerns that could be career-threatening, the position needs a serious upgrade. Namely, they need a playmaker, sort of an anti-Allen: someone who can make interceptions and game-changing plays. Allen actually played relatively well but has no ball skills whatsoever, dropping at least four would-be interceptions this season. The position could be upgraded through free agency and the draft.

2 OL By the end of the season, the LB position had turned into a junkyard of recycled and injured bodies, as the Giants were left with with one player —



ASHTON YUBOTY | OHIO STATE

The **Hot** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR NEW YORK'S SCHEMES

PLAYER | COLLEGE

1. **CB ASHTON YUBOTY** | Ohio State
2. **DT BABATUNDE OSHINOWO** | Stanford
3. **OLB DeMECO RYANS** | Alabama
4. **OLB THOMAS HOWARD** | UTEP
5. **WR DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS** | Oregon
6. **DT KYLE WILLIAMS** | LSU
7. **FS PAT WATKINS** | Florida State
8. **CB DAVID PITTMAN** | Northwestern St. (La.)
9. **DT KEDRIC GOLSTON** | Georgia
10. **WR TODD WATKINS** | BYU
11. **FS CALVIN LOWRY** | Penn State
12. **CB CLETIS GORDON** | Jackson State

Nick Greisen — who had started the season with the team. MLB Antonio Pierce was a terrific addition, and his injury was significant. SLB Carlos Emmons played well but must rehabilitate from a torn pectoral, and Reggie Torbor has promise but was slowed by injuries. Greisen, a free-agent-to-be, is versatile, tough and capable of playing all three LB spots. But he's better in reserve. The team is likely to cut injury-prone WLB Barrett Green, who has done little in two seasons, and look to add an active weak-side 'backer who can get into the backfield and disrupt. The draft appears to have plenty of candidates there.

3 WR Starters Plaxico Burress, despite a late-season slump followed by spurts of anger, and Amani Toomer are fine pieces, but the Giants played

almost all of 2005 without a competent third option. Tim Carter has been a disappointment, and Jamaar Taylor is no guarantee to develop. David Tyree makes his living as a special-teams stud with few contributions as a wide-out. What this group needs is an influx of speed, and it wouldn't shock anyone to see the team draft a blazer to vie for the No. 3 job with a first-day pick in the draft. Free agency might be the safer, but more expensive, route.

4 S The team would like to add a safety who can hit and run, replacing FS Brent Alexander, who didn't embarrass himself in his 13th NFL season but is just about cooked and likely to be released. Undrafted rookie James Butler (three interceptions) was a find, but he might not possess the overall skills to be a full-time starter. SS Gibril Wilson is a good fit at the other spot, but he often plays close to the line as an eighth man in the box, so the ideal fit here would be a cover safety who can play centerfield in cover-1 zones, be athletic enough to handle cover-2 and be tough enough to play for Coughlin and defensive coordinator Tim Lewis, who expect a lot out of their DBs.

5 DT The interior of the D-line wasn't getting much of a pass rush late in the season, leaving DEs Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora to face constant double teams (often on the same play), and it was getting pushed around some vs. the run, too. Kendrick Clancy, the team's most consistent run stopper inside, is a free agent who should get a major bump in pay from someone. William Joseph, though improved, has fallen way short of first-round expectations. The rest of the tackles are just guys. For depth, the team could use a belly-bumping NT type as well as a quick, pass-rushing three-technique.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

GM Ernie Accorsi is on board for at least one more year, and the team was happy with its limited but somewhat fruitful draft bounty in 2005. He takes responsibility for the final call on draft picks, trades and free-agent signings but also relies heavily on input from the Giants' talented front office, including college scouting director Jerry Shay, pro personnel director Dave Gettleman and player personnel director Jerry Reese, considered to be a rising star and potential replacement for Accorsi, who has flirted with retirement but decided to remain with the club following the deaths of owners Wellington Mara and Robert Tisch. Accorsi also appears to trust the instincts and evaluation skills of Coughlin, who had final say on personnel matters in Jacksonville but does not here.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 NEW YORK GIANTS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	43	Corey Webster	CB	LSU	Made push to No. 2 corner by season's end	15/3
3	74	Justin Tuck	DE	Notre Dame	Really stood out as pass-rush specialist	14/1
4	110	Brandon Jacobs	RB	Southern Illinois	Struggled at times in short yardage but has upside	16/0
6	186	Eric Moore	DE-LB	Florida State	Switched to LB in what essentially was redshirt year	8/0

SUMMARY ▶ GOT BANG FOR BUCK WITH FOUR PICKS; WEBSTER, TUCK COULD BE FUTURE STARTERS, AND JACOBS IS INTRIGUING



BRANDON JACOBS

NEW YORK JETS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 4-12

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

A tumultuous 2005 season ended with upheaval as head coach Herman Edwards was allowed to leave with two years remaining on his contract for his dream job in Kansas City. All the Jets got in return for a coach who had led them to three playoff berths in five seasons was a fourth-round draft pick. As a result, new head coach Eric Mangini and his revamped coaching staff contribute to the rebuilding nature of this team. The offense has a number of needs, particularly in the backfield and up front. The team needs to find a starting running back, a quarterback who can compete for the starting job, a tackle and a center. A speed receiver also is a position that could be filled.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the New York Jets' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 RB With Curtis Martin suffering through an injury-plagued '05 season, and with the odds good that the 32-year-old running back (he turns 33 in May) is nearing the end of his career, the Jets' top priority is finding their next starting running back. They crave USC's Reggie Bush, but picking at No. 4 won't allow them the opportunity to draft him. As a result, they will look at backs like Laurence Maroney, LenDale White and DeAngelo Williams. However, if that's the direction they take, they will look to trade down to acquire more picks and get one



D'BICKASHAW FERGUSON | VIRGINIA

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR NEW YORK'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. DE MARIO WILLIAMS	North Carolina St.
2. OT D'BICKASHAW FERGUSON	Virginia
3. DT HALOTI NGATA	Oregon
4. RB JOSEPH ADDAI	LSU
5. OT ERIC WINSTON	Miami (Fla.)
6. QB BRODIE CROYLE	Alabama
7. NT BABATUNDE OSHINOWO	Stanford
8. DE MELVIN OLIVER	LSU
9. RB ANDRE HALL	South Florida
10. OG WILL ALLEN	Texas
11. C PAT ROSS	Boston College
12. QB PAUL PINEGAR	Fresno State

of those backs later in the first round.

2 QB When Chad Pennington reinjured the rotator cuff in his throwing shoulder in Week Three, less than a year after tearing that same rotator cuff, it turned the Jets' QB position into a huge question mark. When backup Jay Fiedler injured his throwing shoulder seven plays later in the same game, it left New York with a huge need for a starting-caliber signalcaller. Pennington is expected back for the start of the regular season, but there is no way to know how well his shoulder will respond after two surgeries in the past two years. The Jets are likely to

acquire a veteran via trade or free agency, but it won't be a surprise if the team drafts a young quarterback to develop, too.

3 NT The Jets badly missed the run-stuffing play of Jason Ferguson, who left via free agency for Dallas last offseason. Replacements James Reed and Lance Legree did OK, but they didn't have the size that the Jets desperately need to clog up the middle, free up DT Dewayne Robertson to rush up the field and keep blockers off of MLB Jonathan Vilma. The Jets fell from fifth vs. the run in 2004 to 29th in '05. A big factor was the lack of size up front.

4 OT Jason Fabini has lost a step and was struggling at the OLT spot so much that he was moved to right tackle before going down for the season with an injury. The Jets moved Adrian Jones to left tackle, but he struggled a bit and looks to be a better fit on the right side. That leaves the Jets with a big void to fill at left tackle. Fabini could be let go or kept as a backup, but he's not starting-caliber any longer. A top left tackle like D'Brickashaw Ferguson may be very enticing to the Jets if they keep their No. 4 overall pick.

5 C Kevin Mawae has been a top center for a number of years, but he turned 35 in January and is coming off a torn triceps injury that ended his season early. Pete Kendall moved to center in place of Mawae and struggled a bit, leading the Jets to conclude that guard is the best spot for him at this point in his career. However, both veterans have substantial salaries in 2006 and could be cap casualties, depending on what direction the Jets want to go. Either way, look for the Jets to address the interior of the O-line with one or two picks in this draft.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

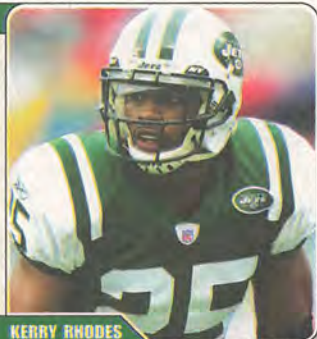
In the wake of Edwards' departure, GM Terry Bradway assumed clear control of the football operation and will be the architect of the Jets' rebuilding process. The coaching staff will likely have a strong say in the team's preparation for the draft, but it appears it will be Bradway's call in the end. Bradway has drafted only one Pro Bowl player in his five years with the team. Unfortunately for New York, that player, WR Santana Moss, made it to Hawaii after being traded to the Redskins last offseason.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 NEW YORK JETS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	47	Mike Nugent	PK	Ohio State	Bright future but struggled with long-range accuracy	16/0
2	57	Justin Miller	CB	Clemson	Showed star potential as corner and kick returner	16/8
3	88	Sione Pouha	DT	Utah	Has ideal size but needs to use it as run-stuffer	14/0
4	123	Kerry Rhodes	FS	Louisville	Playmaking skills should improve with experience	16/16
5	161	Andre Maddox	SS	North Carolina State	Was lost for year with knee injury late in preseason	0/0
6	182	Cedric Houston	RB	Tennessee	Showed potential as short-yardage back	12/4
6	198	Joel Dreessen	TE	Colorado State	Saw more action after Chris Baker's injury; LS, too	14/0
7	240	Harry Williams	WR	Tuskegee (Ala.)	Speedy small-school project slowed by knee injury	1/0

SUMMARY ► NUGENT, MILLER, RHODES LOOK TO BE STARTERS FOR YEARS TO COME; POUHA, MADDOX NEED TO STEP UP IN '06

KERRY RHODES



HARRY SOUL JR.

OAKLAND RAIDERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 4-12

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

After a disappointing 2005 season that saw the Raiders fail to live up to lofty expectations offensively and slip out of contention before the leaves changed in Northern California, it's hard to say what approach Al Davis & Co. might take heading into the off-season. They rarely sit on their hands, though — that much is certain. The Raiders also have proven to be adept at manipulating the salary cap, so don't expect financial concerns to be much of an issue if someone catches their eye. Seemingly without much wiggle room under the cap last spring, they found a way to acquire WR Randy Moss, RB LaMont Jordan and DE Derrick Burgess, if that's any proof of their abilities. Several pieces of the puzzle appear to be in place for a new coach who had yet to be named at presstime, but an upgrade along the offensive line and at several spots defensively is a necessity to compete in what should be a rough-and-tumble AFC West.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Oakland Raiders' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 OLB The Raiders primarily used a 4-2-5 look defensively last season, and that was done more out of necessity than a desire to stray from the norm. Had Kirk Morrison not stepped up so quickly as a rookie, the Raiders' lack of LB talent would have been much more glaring. As it stands now, Oakland would love to add at least a few versatile linebackers who could fill several roles in what figures to remain a hybrid system that shows many different looks. Serious injuries have stood in the way for Sam



HALOTI NGATA | OREGON

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR OAKLAND'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. OLB A.J. HAWK	Ohio State
2. DT HALOTI NGATA	Oregon
3. TE VERNON DAVIS	Maryland
4. OLB ROCKY MCINTOSH	Miami (Fla.)
5. SS DARNELL BING	USC
6. CB MARCUS MAXEY	Miami (Fla.)
7. SS BERNARD POLLARD	Purdue
8. OLB THOMAS HOWARD	UTEP
9. DT RODRIQUE WRIGHT	Texas
10. OG ROB SIMS	Ohio State
11. DE RAY EDWARDS	Purdue
12. CB CHIJOKE ONYENEGECHA	Oklahoma

Williams, and Tyler Brayton is probably best-suited as a defensive end.

2 SS Former first-round pick Derrick Gibson has not been the answer. He has been injured too often, but even when healthy, his decision-making and lack of range and instincts in coverage have been red flags. Backup Jarrod Cooper had his moments and can make the big hit, but he lacks the overall consistency to be considered a mainstay. The feeling is that with Stuart Schweigert looking like he owns the rights to the future at free safety, and with a collection of young talent at the CB position, strong safety remains

the one potential downfall in the secondary.

3 OG Injuries exposed the interior of the Raiders' offensive line as a problem area for the near future. Jake Grove is at his best when playing center, but they may need him to play guard again in '06 unless the situation is remedied. Ron Stone has been nothing special during the late stages of his career. Oakland would prefer to use Brad Badger as a backup, and Langston Walker is coming off major stomach surgery that cost him a good portion of last season. A reasonable possibility would be the team targeting a feisty, mobile guard in the early-to-middle rounds who can help pull and pave the way for RB LaMont Jordan in the running game.

4 DT Ted Washington will be entering his 15th season and has aching knees. Warren Sapp is entering his 12th. At some point, the Raiders need to begin thinking about the future in the trenches, and that process is likely to start this year. Ed Jasper was serviceable in the rotation, and Tommy Kelly has promise at both tackle and end. But an infusion of youth that can regularly create havoc in the middle will be a must sooner rather than later if they want to avoid limiting Burgess' effectiveness on the outside.

5 QB There are lots of question marks here and few, if any, answers at this point of the off-season. Kerry Collins, despite a disappointing '05 campaign, might stick around if he agrees to lower his price. Backup Marques Tuiasosopo didn't make the most of his brief opportunity as the starter and very well could exercise an option to void out of his deal and get a fresh start elsewhere. Andrew Walter was a third-round pick last April, but he didn't take a snap in '05 and underwent groin surgery after the season. He is very much an unknown commodity. Expect the Raiders to at least add a veteran passer in free agency, but drafting one is not out of the realm of possibility either.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Mike Lombardi, the team's senior personnel executive, runs the show in terms of scouting, negotiations and roster and cap maneuvers, but don't for a second think that Al Davis doesn't still have his finger on the pulse of all things Silver & Black. He has final say on personnel matters and remains directly involved in a lot of the minutiae of the organization as a whole.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 OAKLAND RAIDERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	23	Fabian Washington	CB	Nebraska	Didn't make big plays, but his impact was large	16/11
2	38	Stanford Routt	CB	Houston	A little raw, but he got some good experience	14/2
3	69	Andrew Walter	QB	Arizona State	Never played, underwent groin surgery in January	0/0
3	78	Kirk Morrison	ILB	San Diego State	Learned defense quickly, led team in tackles with 116	16/15
6	175	Anttaj Hawthorne	DT	Wisconsin	Was cut, signed to practice squad, then played a bit	2/0
6	212	Ryan Riddle	DE	California	Made seven tackles on special teams	12/0
6	214	Pete McMahon	OT	Iowa	Failed to make the team coming out of training camp	0/0

SUMMARY WASHINGTON AND MORRISON PAID IMMEDIATE DIVIDENDS, BUT THE REST OF THE CROP OFFERED LITTLE ELSE



KIRK MORRISON

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



2005 SEASON RECORD: 6-10

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

Following the fall from Super Bowl runner-up to 6-10, improving the team's health (13 players, including QB Donovan McNabb and four other offensive starters, ended up on I.R.) and locker-room morale following the Terrell Owens fallout are primary orders of business. The offense looked flat by season's end, though, and the "D" made few big plays, so it's clear that the problems all can't be blamed on T.O. and injuries. With ample cap room, the team will spend, but not gratuitously. Instead, look for smart free-agent moves and improvements through the draft. In addition to the needs below, the team also could use a developmental QB as well as OL depth.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Philadelphia Eagles' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 WR Owens won't be on the roster much longer. So with promising Reggie Brown, disappointing Greg Lewis and a rehabbed Todd Pinkston topping the '06 WR depth chart, it's clear that Reid needs to add at least one body to the mix. Billy McMullen, Damerian McCants, Justin Jenkins and Carl Ford have a chance to stick as No. 4 or 5 receivers, but the team needs a consistent threat who can provide some kind of play-making ability. He doesn't have to be on Owens' level — Indy's Reggie Wayne is the only free agent who's anywhere close to T.O. — he just has to be able to make a difference and take pressure off the emerging Brown.



VERNON DAVIS | MARYLAND

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR PHILADELPHIA'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. TE VERNON DAVIS	Maryland
2. OLB ERNIE SIMS	Florida State
3. WR CHAD JACKSON	Florida
4. DT ORIAN HARRIS	Miami (Fla.)
5. OLB THOMAS HOWARD	UTEP
6. TE ANTHONY FASANO	Notre Dame
7. DT BARRY COFIELD	Northwestern
8. OLB JON ALSTON	Stanford
9. H-B JOSHUA TINCHE	Louisville
10. RB CEDRIC HUMES	Virginia Tech
11. OLB KEVIN SIMON	Tennessee
12. WR DELANIE WALKER	Central Missouri St.

2 OLB SLB Dhani Jones and WLB Keith Adams were fourth and fifth on the team in tackles, respectively, but they only combined for one interception, one forced fumble and no sacks. The Eagles reached on underclassman Matt McCoy in last year's draft and got virtually nothing out of him. They really need a big-play guy outside, and Adams (a free agent) might be gone. Mark Simoneau is a steady replacement, but he's not a 16-game starter.

3 TE Nothing against the work of undrafted Stephen Spach, but it was clear when the Eagles brought back Chad Lewis to help out an injury-riddled L.J. Smith that the position needed a boost. Lewis likely is gone (again), and Spach could be an afterthought if the team adds another tight end or two. It could use a big, athletic blocker who has the ability to catch passes and spell Smith, who starts but whose injuries have cast doubt among the Eagles' brass as to whether he can be a full-time impact player.

4 RB Starter Brian Westbrook has a new contract. Ryan Moats opened eyes late with TD runs of 40 and 59 yards and a rushing average of 5.1 yards. But both are smaller, quicker backs. The team needs a chain-mover, the kind of player it expected to have with Correll Buckhalter, who missed the past two years with knee injuries and might not be able to come back. The team has made some unconventional moves on Draft Day in the past, so it shouldn't shock anyone if it pulls a surprise and takes a back in Round One. There are some intriguing bigger backs (USC's LenDale White and Minnesota's Laurence Maroney) who could fit its preference.

5 DL Rookie DT Mike Patterson played well, but Darwin Walker took a step back with the loss of Corey Simon. Hollis Thomas and Sam Rayburn were nowhere close to their '04 forms. The team needs a tackle who can provide a strong push. Too often, the team's smaller DTs got pushed around. DE Jevon Kearse can be a premier pass rusher, and rookie Trent Cole flashed great potential, but the two combined for only one sack in the final six games. With N.D. Kalu expected to move on and Jerome McDougle trying to come back from a gunshot wound, the team will look to add an end, preferably one with some size vs. the run.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Andy Reid made a critical move in terms of continuity, retaining Tom Heckert and giving him the GM title. It will be interesting to see if Reid continues to have final say on personnel, but Heckert's scope is expected to expand. Reid relies heavily on his talented front office, which includes Jason Licht, an up-and-coming talent evaluator, and a first-rate scouting staff.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	31	Mike Patterson	DT	USC	Impressed with effort, technique to become a starter	16/7
2	35	Reggie Brown	WR	Georgia	Finished as NFL's top rookie WR in receiving yards	16/11
2	63	Matt McCoy	OLB	San Diego State	Really struggled to adapt, has long way to go in '06	4/0
3	77	Ryan Moats	RB	Louisiana Tech	Ripped off long runs when given a chance	7/1
4	102	Sean Considine	FS	Iowa	Joined rotation before shoulder injury ended season	6/0
4	126	Todd Herrermans	OT	Saginaw Valley State	Handled OLT job well when Tra Thomas got hurt	4/4
5	146	Trent Cole	DE	Cincinnati	LB-sized Cole (five sacks) started last seven at DE	15/7
5	172	Scott Young	OG	Brigham Young	Promoted from practice squad after injury rash	0/0
6	211	Calvin Armstrong	OT	Washington State	Made roster but inactive for all 16 games	0/0
7	247	Kenyon Marshall	DT	Grand Valley St. (Mich.)	Could be a goal-line force; gets chance in Europe	1/0
7	252	David Bergeron	ILB	Stanford	Failed to crack roster, cut in training camp	0/0

SUMMARY ► PATTERSON, BROWN AND COLE HAVE CHANCES TO BE MAINSTAYS; PRESSURE WILL BE ON MCCOY TO LIVE UP TO BILLING



REGGIE BROWN

PITTSBURGH STEELERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Steelers don't have many pressing needs to fill. However, they will have decisions to make on key unrestricted free agents such as S Chris Hope, WR Antwaan Randle El, CB Deshaun Townsend and DE Kimo von Oelhoffen. The Steelers might not be able to re-sign all four. However, they do have good enough depth at each of these positions to endure some losses. The Steelers' remarkable organizational stability allows them to draft players that fit their offensive and defensive schemes year after year. Perhaps that is why they have drafted so well in the first round in the past five years.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Pittsburgh Steelers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 RB With veteran Jerome Bettis considering retirement, the Steelers will address this position via the draft or free agency. A big, physical back would seem to be atop the shopping list with waterbug



MICHAEL ROBINSON | PENN STATE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR PITTSBURGH'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. C NICK MANGOLD	Ohio State
2. WR-QB MICHAEL ROBINSON	Penn State
3. OG TAITUSI "DEUCE" LUTUI	USC
4. WR BRAD SMITH	Missouri
5. C CHRIS CHESTER	Oklahoma
6. DE VICTOR ADEYANJU	Indiana
7. WR BRANDON WILLIAMS	Wisconsin
8. LB KAI PARRAM	Virginia
9. DE BARRY COFIELD	Northwestern
10. DE JAMES WYCHE	Syracuse
11. OLB WILLIAM KERSHAW	Maryland
12. DE MATT RICE	Penn State

Willie Parker already in the fold. The Steelers long have had a knack for finding bigger backs in the lower rounds of the draft or for a reasonable price in free agency. Another factor that could cause the Steelers to make this position a priority: Veteran Duce Staley, slowed by knee problems all season, could be released.

2 WR The Steelers wouldn't meet Plaxico Burress' asking price last off-season, leaving a void for a taller wideout opposite of Hines Ward. The Steelers don't figure to spend heavily on the position in free agency after giving Ward a lucrative new

contract. This might not bode well for Randle El, who could attract attention in a thin WR market. The Steelers could look to re-sign veteran Quincy Morgan, who was carving a niche for himself as a kick returner and a deep threat before suffering a broken right fibula in the playoff win at Cincinnati.

3 C Jeff Hartings, who has battled knee problems, will be 34 at the start of the 2006 season. Reserve C Chukky Okobi hasn't mounted a serious challenge for the job. The Steelers need to start thinking about the future of the position, and very well could add a young center via the draft. However, so long as Hartings is healthy, he will be tough to push out of the lineup. Though he did not play as well in 2005 as he did the previous season, Hartings is still capable of holding his own in the trenches.

4 DE von Oelhoffen is set to become a free agent, as is veteran reserve Brett Keisel. Even if both return, the Steelers should look to upgrade their depth. Aaron Smith is entering his eighth season, von Oelhoffen his 13th. The ends in Pittsburgh's scheme often are overlooked, but their ability to occupy blockers for the linebackers makes the defense hum.

5 LB The Steelers are set at the starting ILB positions with James Farrior and Larry Foote. But a young, athletic reserve inside linebacker who can learn the ropes behind the starters for a couple of years would be a valuable addition. Farrior will be 32 the next time the postseason rolls around. Foote is a good fit for the scheme, but he's somewhat limited athletically, and teams have had success running at him.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Head coach Bill Cowher and director of football operations Kevin Colbert work in concert on draft day and in free agency. The Steelers have drafted well throughout Colbert's tenure. Listen to this roll call of first-round picks since 2000: Burress, Casey Hampton, Kendall Simmons, Troy Polamalu, Ben Roethlisberger, Heath Miller. Simmons is the least-heralded of the group, but he's still a starter. The Steelers prefer to build via the draft and sign their own free agents rather than aggressively shop for outside free agents.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 PITTSBURGH STEELERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	30	Heath Miller	TE	Virginia	Quickly emerged as a top red-zone threat	16/15
2	62	Bryant McFadden	CB	Florida State	Was an important contributor by season's end	12/1
3	93	Trai Essex	OT	Northwestern	Learned under fire filling in for Marvel Smith	6/4
4	131	Fred Gibson	WR	Georgia	Couldn't make team out of training camp	0/0
5	166	Rian Wallace	ILB	Temple	Could push for playing time as a reserve in '06	4/0
6	204	Chris Kemoeatu	OG	Utah	Steelers are intrigued by his potential	0/0
7	228	Shaun Nua	DE	Brigham Young	Will have to battle to make team in '06	0/0
7	244	Noah Herron	RB	Northwestern	Played two games with Steelers, five with Packers	7/0

SUMMARY ► MILLER, MCFADDEN HAVE BRIGHT FUTURES; ESSEX, KEMOEATU EXPECTED TO PROVIDE OL DEPTH IN '06



HEATH MILLER

ST. LOUIS RAMS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 6-10

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

Coming off a season in which their rookie crop got mixed reviews and their free-agent additions left a great deal to be desired, the Rams are expected to beef up their personnel department. The emphasis in both the draft and free agency this offseason will be on defense, defense and more defense after surrendering a franchise-record 5,602 yards in 2005 and a total of 429 points, the second most allowed in Rams history. In addition to hoping to dramatically upgrade their defensive personnel, schematic adjustments on both sides of the ball are likely. One of the big problems with the Rams' "D" was that the players never fully comprehended beleaguered coordinator Larry Marmie's system. On offense, the Rams need to design more running plays to suit featured RB Steven Jackson's particular style and cut down on the stretch running plays that required him to dance and juke a la Marshall Faulk in his heyday.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the St. Louis Rams' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1/S The Rams need help at both safety spots in the worst way. Starting SS Adam Archuleta, who struggled because of back problems two seasons ago, got off to a strong start in '05 but regressed as the season wore on and missed more than his share of tackles in key situations. He's a free



JIMMY WILLIAMS | VIRGINIA TECH

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR ST. LOUIS' SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. CB ANTONIO CROMARTIE	Florida State
2. OLB CHAD GREENWAY	Iowa
3. S DANIEL BULLOCKS	Nebraska
4. FS-CB JIMMY WILLIAMS	Virginia Tech
5. CB-FS CEDRIC GRIFFIN	Texas
6. DE DARRYL TAPP	Virginia Tech
7. FS-CB DANIEL MANNING	Abilene Christian
8. OG-OT DARYN COLLEDGE	Boise State
9. FS-CB MARCUS HUDSON	North Carolina St.
10. DE-OLB CHARLTON KEITH	Kansas
11. DT JESSE MAHELONA	Tennessee
12. DE-OLB STANLEY MCGLOVER	Auburn

agent, and the Rams might not go out of their way to bring him back. Converted WR Mike Furrey was a pleasant surprise at free safety after free-agent pickup Michael Hawthorne failed to cut the mustard, but Furrey is still very much a work in progress.

2/CB Injury concerns make cornerback another top priority. Jerametrius Butler, the team's top corner, suffered a serious season-ending knee injury last August, and his loss was a serious blow to a secondary that managed only 13 interceptions,

the third-lowest total in the NFC. The other starting corner, Travis Fisher, finished the season on injured reserve and has missed a lot of games due to injury the last few seasons. He's also entering his contract year. The Rams' other corners had all kinds of problems tackling except for undersized Corey Ivy, who offset that skill with too many mistakes in coverage and too many silly penalties.

3/LB After spending a pretty penny to sign free agents Dexter Coakley and Chris Claiborne, the Rams got little bang for their bucks, as their LB corps seldom made any plays and was a major disappointment. The only 'backer to distinguish himself at all was hardworking grinder Pisa Tinoisamoa, but he still had a tendency to overpursue.

4/DL DLE Leonard Little, the defense's lone difference maker, needs more help on the line. Anthony Hargrove came on strong down the stretch on the right side in his second pro season, but he was a nonfactor for the first two-thirds of the 2005 campaign. Inside, DT Ryan Pickett has developed into one of the league's most productive nose tackles, but he's a free agent who could attract some interest on the open market. Fellow DTs Jimmy Kennedy and Damione Lewis weren't nearly as effective as Pickett. Lewis, who had only one sack, is also a free agent.

5/OL Heading into the 2006 season, starting C Andy McCollum will be 36 and starting ORG Adam Timmerman will be 35. Both of these seasoned vets are grittier than Rooster Cogburn, but McCollum's play tailed off late in the season, and Timmerman toiled away at less than full strength following multiple operations.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

As was the case with Mike Martz, the Rams' new head coach, Scott Linehan, is expected to have the final say, but team president John Shaw will have veto power. Linehan is also expected to have less power over personnel than Martz, who in addition to creating a tense working environment because of the deterioration of his relationship with president of football operations Jay Zygmunt, complicated the process by frequently changing his mind about players.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 ST. LOUIS RAMS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	19	Alex Barron	OT	Florida State	Has bright future but must cut down on penalties	12/11
2	50	Ronald Bartell	CB	Howard	Don't know yet whether he's a corner or free safety	10/7
3	66	O.J. Atogwe	FS	Stanford	Hardly played but had a strong season finale	12/0
3	81	Richie Incognito	C	Nebraska	Looks the part but must stay healthy, trouble-free	0/0
4	117	Jerome Carter	SS	Florida State	Failed to live up to reputation as big hitter	14/2
4	134	Claude Terrell	OG	New Mexico	Roadgrader could be long-term starting left guard	14/10
5	144	Jerome Collins	TE	Notre Dame	Project promoted off practice squad late in season	3/0
6	192	Dante Ridgeway	WR	Ball State	Cut out of camp; picked up by Jets	7/0
6	210	Reggie Hodges	P	Ball State	Total bust; did awful job before getting cut in October	5/0
7	250	Ryan Fitzpatrick	QB	Harvard	Was outstanding in his debut but then regressed	4/3
7	251	Madison Hedgecock	FB	North Carolina	Has a shot at being a pretty solid fullback	16/7

SUMMARY ► BARRON AND TERRELL HAVE BRIGHT FUTURES, BUT THE VERDICT IS STILL OUT ON THE OTHERS



CLAUDE TERRELL

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 9-7

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

After an eight-game turnaround in 2004, going from a 4-12 doormat to 12-4 contender, expectations were high entering the '05 season. But it was a constant struggle for the Chargers to put teams away, and late-game miscues came back to haunt them, ultimately preventing a return trip to the postseason. From top to bottom, this roster looks to be one of the deepest and most complete the league has to offer. Combine that fact with the organization's preference to go after lower-priced role players as opposed to making the big splash in free agency, and it wouldn't appear as though we should expect a lot of major moves from the Chargers this offseason. Their plans for the QB situation, however, should keep people interested.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the San Diego Chargers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1. S With such an improvement in the pass rush this season, the issues at the safety positions only became more glaring. Bhawoh Jue was signed away from Green Bay as a free agent prior to the '05 season, and his experience at cornerback was thought to be just what was needed for a secondary with lots of early-round talent but a lack of consistent success to show for it. But Jue, Terrence Kiel and Jerry Wilson all took turns being exposed in coverage. Kiel is like another linebacker —



BERNARD POLLARD | PURDUE

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR SAN DIEGO'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. OT MARCUS McNEILL	Auburn
2. FS KO SIMPSON	South Carolina
3. OT ERIC WINSTON	Miami (Fla.)
4. SS BERNARD POLLARD	Purdue
5. OG ADAM STENAVICH	Michigan
6. WR MARTIN NANCE	Miami (Ohio)
7. DT DUSTY DVORACEK	Oklahoma
8. SS GREG BLUE	Georgia
9. OT RYAN O'CALLAGHAN	California
10. CB DEE WEBB	Florida
11. OT PAUL McQUISTAN	Weber State
12. CB ANTONIO MALONE	Toledo

a physical presence against the run but lacking when asked to keep up with receivers over half the field. This figures to be a focus in the draft, but a veteran free agent could be targeted as well to lessen the learning curve.

2. OT General manager A.J. Smith told PFW that a lot of the inconsistencies the offensive line went through in the last month-and-a-half of the season were the direct result of veteran OLT Roman Oben going down with a foot injury around midseason. The Chargers will need to begin looking at left tackle beyond Oben, a 10-year veteran, as there are some doubts that his

replacement, Leander Jordan, is the long-term answer. ORT Shane Olivea is serviceable but hardly overwhelming, and the Chargers are expected to keep an eye out for a possible upgrade there.

3. WR Beyond Keenan McCardell, the Chargers are lacking for proven threats here, and McCardell is probably best-suited to be a No. 2 receiver. Eric Parker put up decent numbers in '05 and definitely fills a role on the team, but the Chargers are left wanting more from the WR corps. Vincent Jackson, a second-round pick last April, is a big, athletic target, but injuries and a rookie learning curve prevented him from being a factor. Ideally, they could use some deep speed and playmaking ability to keep defenses honest vs. RB LaDainian Tomlinson and TE Antonio Gates.

4. OG Mike Goff was the only Chargers offensive linemen to play in all 16 games last season. He is entering his ninth year in the league and is still a battler. The emergence of Kris Dielman made troubled former second-round pick Tionu Fonoti expendable, but the Chargers really don't know what they have behind these two. Neither Wes Sims nor Scott Mruzowski saw any extensive game action as rookies last season and are largely unproven commodities. Added depth along the interior of the line would be nice to see heading into camp.

5. CB The Chargers' top three cover men, Quentin Jammer, Drayton Florence and Sammy Davis, represent two former first-round picks and a second-round pick, which makes their lack of progress even more baffling to those close to the team. The trio has its moments, sure, but not all of them were positive. The pass defense ranked 28th in yards allowed last season despite a vastly improved pass rush. This might be an area where the Chargers prefer to target a veteran on the free-agent market unless someone they like slides too far in the draft to pass up.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Although he receives input from plenty of sources, the decisions belong to Smith, who shrewdly has built the Chargers from also-rans to legitimate contenders mostly through the draft but also by adding key veteran leaders from the open market.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	12	Shawne Merriman	OLB	Maryland	Dominant pass-rush skills earned defensive ROTY	15/10
1	28	Luis Castillo	DT	Northwestern	Earned a starting role as a consistent contributor	16/15
2	61	Vincent Jackson	WR	Northern Colorado	Injuries prevented him from doing much	8/0
4	130	Darren Sproles	RB	Kansas State	Showed flashes as a return man, third-down option	15/0
5	164	Wesley Britt	OT	Alabama	Released prior to the season opener	0/0
6	177	Wes Sims	OG	Oklahoma	Highlight was being activated from practice squad	1/0
7	242	Scott Mruzowski	C	Bowling Green	Has outside chance to provide depth in the future	6/0

SUMMARY ▶ THE CHARGERS WERE ECSTATIC WITH MERRIMAN AND CASTILLO; STILL UNCERTAIN WITH O-LINEMEN



SHAWNE MERRIMAN

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 4-12

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

After finishing last in the league in both total offense and total defense in 2005, it's obvious the 49ers' needs are numerous heading into Mike Nolan's second season as head coach. Last offseason, their primary focus in the draft was the costly selection of QB Alex Smith with the top overall pick. The Niners' one big move in the free-agent market was the relatively quick signing of ex-Bills OLT Jonas Jennings. This offseason, there's a feeling the organization will switch gears and branch out in both the draft and free agency. Look for the Niners to make a concerted effort to add as many as three extra draft picks. One area that was considered a major weakness heading into the '05 campaign was the offensive line, but with rookies Adam Snyder and David Baas showing steady progress as starters and OG Justin Smiley continuing to improve in his second season, the Niners now are feeling pretty good about their OL situation.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the San Francisco 49ers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 CB Ahmed Plummer, once considered a key core player, has fallen out of favor with Nolan and is not expected back next season. Mike Rumph, another former first-round pick, has suffered season-ending injuries the last two seasons. The Niners' secondary was held together most of the '05 season with Band-Aids, and an influx of talent on the corners is sorely needed. Unher-



MICHAEL HUFF | TEXAS

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. CB-S MICHAEL HUFF	Texas
2. DT HALOTI NGATA	Oregon
3. C NICK MANGOLD	Ohio State
4. WR CHAD JACKSON	Florida
5. OLB-DE PARYS HARALSON	Tennessee
6. RS-WR DEVIN HESTER	Miami (Fla.)
7. OLB MANNY LAWSON	North Carolina St.
8. CB JOHN WALKER	USC
9. TE T.J. WILLIAMS	North Carolina St.
10. CB DAVID PITTMAN	Northwestern St. (La.)
11. DE RYAN LACASSE	Syracuse
12. TE OWEN DANIELS	Wisconsin

alded Bruce Thornton was surprisingly impressive after getting an opportunity to start because of injuries, but personnel people feel he is best-suited as a nickel back.

2 WR The Niners really could use a bona fide home-run hitter capable of scoring every time he gets his hands on the ball a la Terrell Owens in his days in the Bay Area. Brandon Lloyd can make highlight-reel catches with his terrific hands and uncanny body control, but he has

too many lapses and is not a complete receiver. Arnaz Battle, who has been re-signed, is considered more of a total package, but he's also more of a Hines Ward type than a legitimate deep threat.

3 DL High on the Niners' wish list would be another consistent pass rusher up front to complement veteran Bryant Young, who is expected to postpone retirement after one of the best seasons of his solid career. The Niners ranked 30th in QB sack percentage, and their inability to apply steady pressure placed an extra burden on an undermanned and inexperienced secondary. The Niners could also use more depth at the DT position.

4 LB The team's strongest area in '05 figures to be at least partially revamped with three of the four starters — Julian Peterson, Derek Smith and Andre Carter — eligible for free agency. The Niners would prefer to have most of their money tied up at positions other than linebacker, and after extending hardworking ILB Jeff Ulbrich's contract on the same day last season that they re-upped with Battle, it's quite possible there will be enough money left in the till to re-sign only one of their free agent 'backers. That most likely would be Smith, who, like Ulbrich, has endeared himself to the team's coaching staff with his work habits and fundamentally sound play.

5 TE The Niners need insurance at this key position. Converted WR Eric Johnson is effective when healthy, but he missed both the entire 2003 season and all of '05 with injuries. With Johnson on the shelf heading into last season, the Niners had considerable trouble establishing any kind of passing game in the middle of the field.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

Nolan, who before the 2005 season never had been a head coach at any level, has the final say. But vice president of player personnel Scot McCloughan — Nolan's answer to Scott Pioli, Bill Belichick's right-hand man in New England — oversees all the legwork and research and has a great deal of input. Also expected to get significantly involved from a salary-cap standpoint is director of football operations Paraag Marathe, who is considered a rising star in the Niners' organization.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	1	Alex Smith	QB	Utah	On-the-job training was marred by injury	9/7
2	33	David Baas	C-OG	Michigan	Rebounded from injury to become starting ORG	13/5
3	65	Frank Gore	RB	Miami (Fla.)	Hard to bring down; has outstanding work habits	14/1
3	94	Adam Snyder	OG	Oregon	Could have a promising future at right tackle	16/8
5	137	Ronald Fields	DT	Mississippi State	Was a relative nonfactor but could develop	4/0
5	174	Rasheed Marshall	WR	West Virginia	Didn't live up to "slash"-type expectations	12/0
6	205	Derrick Johnson	CB	Washington	Undersized but fearless; a potential starter in '06	14/4
7	215	Daven Holly	CB	Cincinnati	Was plucked off practice squad by Chicago	0/0
7	223	Marcus Maxwell	WR	Oregon	Fast and lanky but was hindered by foot injury	4/0
7	248	Patrick Estes	OT	Virginia	Converted tight end is another project	7/0
7	249	Billy Bajema	TE	Oklahoma State	Can block DEs, but he was inconsistent	15/7

SUMMARY ► TOP FOUR PICKS, PLUS JOHNSON, COULD BE LONG-TERM KEEPERS; SMITH NEEDS TO MAKE MAJOR LEAP IN '06



ALEX SMITH

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 13-3

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

The Seahawks will have to go a long way to match the success they had last offseason in president of football operations Tim Ruskell's first year on the job. Ruskell, together with vice president of football administration Mike Reinfeldt, who was instrumental in locking up core free agents QB Matt Hasselbeck and OLT Walter Jones with long-term deals (the team had a whopping 17 free agents heading into the '05 offseason) and enabling Ruskell to focus on changing the face of the roster, hit home runs in free agency (WR Joe Jurevicius, DT Chuck Darby, DE Bryce Fisher) and the draft (LBs Lofa Tatupu and Leroy Hill). Those moves set the table for a franchise-record 13-victory season, as well as a runaway division title in the NFC West. Despite the team's stunning turnaround, Ruskell still faces his share of challenges this offseason, most notably determining whether league MVP and star RB Shaun Alexander will sign a sweet new contract with the Seahawks or some other team after testing the free-agent waters. Expect Ruskell to continue looking for new players with strong character as well as talent.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Seattle Seahawks' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 FS Starting FS Ken Hamlin, a punishing hitter who was considered the team's most intimidating defender, is a major question mark after suffering potential



RICHARD MARSHALL | FRESNO STATE

The **HOT** List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR SEATTLE'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. DE RICHARD MARSHALL	Fresno State
2. SS DANIEL BULLOCKS	Nebraska
3. FS KO SIMPSON	South Carolina
4. DE TAMBA WALI	Penn State
5. CB ALAN ZEMAITIS	Penn State
6. DE MARK ANDERSON	Alabama
7. OLB STEPHEN TULLOCH	North Carolina St.
8. RB JERIOUS NORWOOD	Mississippi State
9. CB DEMARIO HINTER	Georgia
10. OLB OMAR GAITHER	Tennessee
11. DE JEREMY MINCEY	Florida
12. RS QUINTON GANTHER	Utah

ly career-threatening head injuries in a scuffle outside a Seattle nightclub after the Seahawks' Sunday-night rout of the Texans. Marquand Manuel stepped in and did a commendable job in Hamlin's place, but the team needs more depth at both safety positions.

2 CB More depth behind Marcus Trufant on the right corner and the combination of Andre Dyson and Kelly Herndon on the left corner would also come in handy. Jordan Babineaux, a converted college safety, did a solid job filling in for Dyson and

Herndon when each of them missed four games with injuries, and he had a knack for making key plays in crunch time. But late in the season, when all three of the team's top corners were nicked up, Seattle's secondary proved to be very vulnerable.

3 DE This position was considered the team's No. 1 need heading into last offseason, and although the Seahawks did sign free-agent DE Bryce Fisher, who went on to register a team-high nine sacks, they did not address the end spot in the draft, as expected. The Seahawks had a league-high 50 sacks, but another impact pass rusher to help take pressure off their secondary would be useful. DT Rocky Bernard, who finished a half-sack behind Fisher for the team lead in '05, is a free agent who could attract some interest on the open market.

4 RB We already have mentioned the uncertain future of Alexander at this writing. The same applies to his backup, Maurice Morris, who also is an unrestricted free agent. Even if the Seahawks are able to keep both of them, the addition of another young back to provide depth and future potential would appear to be a move worth making. As durable as Alexander has proven to be, he will be 29 on Aug. 30 — an age at which many backs begin declining.

5 LB Thanks to the additions of Tatupu, who excelled in the middle both as a playmaker and defensive signal-caller, and the speedy Hill, who made a major impact with 7½ sacks, the LB position went from being a longtime sore spot to an area of relative strength. But the future of free-agent addition Jamie Sharper (season-ending knee infection) is shaky, and fellow OLB D.D. Lewis is injury-prone. A strong-side type with good coverage skills wouldn't hurt.

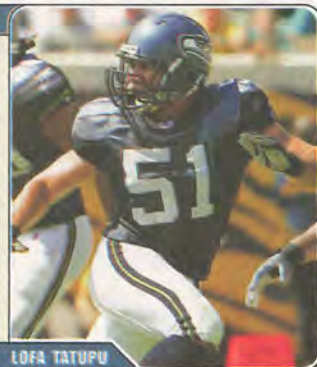
THE DECISIONMAKERS

Ruskell makes the final call. Head coach Mike Holmgren has input in the personnel process, but after having limited success in his former dual role as the team's head coach and general manager, he has become increasingly comfortable concentrating solely on coaching and leaving the front-office matters in Ruskell's hands. Director of pro personnel Will Lewis also has input in the team's draft and free-agent selections.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	26	Chris Spencer	C-OG	Mississippi	Hardly played but will be starting center soon enough	8/0
2	45	Lofa Tatupu	ILB	USC	A revelation; turned MLB spot into team strength	16/16
3	85	David Greene	QB	Georgia	Non-factor who didn't show much in preseason	0/0
3	98	LeRoy Hill	OLB	Clemson	Outstanding pass rusher looks like the real deal	15/10
4	105	Ray Willis	OT	Florida State	Showed improvement in practice but still a project	6/0
5	159	Jeb Huckeba	OLB	Arkansas	Spent season on I.R.; has some pass-rush ability	0/0
6	196	Tony Jackson	TE	Iowa	Wasted pick released after training camp	0/0
7	235	Cornelius Wortham	OLB	Alabama	Not bad for a seventh-rounder; contributed on teams	8/0
7	254	Doug Nienhuis	OT	Oregon State	Signed off practice squad by Jets	0/0

SUMMARY • TATUPU AND HILL ENDED UP BEING TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. SPENCER IS ROBBIE TOSECK'S HEIR APPARENT



LOFA TATUPU

HARRY SCULL JR.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 11-5

OFFSEASON
OUTLOOK

Last season was supposed to be another rebuilding year for the Buccaneers. But head coach Jon Gruden's squad bucked those predictions and won the NFC South title to earn its first playoff berth since 2002, when the team won the Super Bowl. The Bucs' success in 2005 was quite surprising because Gruden started three rookies on offense, and when QB Brian Griese got hurt, Gruden was forced to make a playoff run with first-time starter Chris Simms. For the first time, Gruden put his trust in younger players, and they responded by putting him in the playoffs. Expect the Bucs to continue to go younger in the years to come.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 | OT **ORT** Kenyatta Waker is a free agent, and though OLT Anthony Davis was solid in his first season as a starter, he might be better-suited at right tackle. The Bucs could use a high draft pick to fill in at left tackle. Walker has indicated he plans to test the open market, so one solution to replace him could be to move Davis to the right side



ALAN ZEMAITIS | PENN STATE

The **HOT** ListTHE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED
FOR TAMPA BAY'S SCHEMES

PLAYER | COLLEGE

1. **OLB ERNIE SIMS** | Florida State
2. **OT ERIC WINSTON** | Miami (Fla.)
3. **OG DAVIN JOSEPH** | Oklahoma
4. **CB ALAN ZEMAITIS** | Penn State
5. **OLB ROCKY MCINTOSH** | Miami (Fla.)
6. **CB CEDRIC GRIFFIN** | Texas
7. **OT JEREMY TRUEBLOOD** | Boston College
8. **DE FROSTEE RUCKER** | USC
9. **OLB BRIAN IWUH** | Colorado
10. **FB-RB QUADTRINE HILL** | Miami (Fla.)
11. **WR GREG LEE** | Pittsburgh
12. **ILB TRENT BRAY** | Oregon State

and draft a left tackle or spend some of their limited cap space on a veteran.

2 | CB Ronde Barber and Brian Kelly have anchored the starting spots here for the past five years. That could change in 2006, as Kelly might be a salary-cap cut. Even if Kelly returns, this is a position where the Bucs need to add some depth, and they likely will do that through the draft. It takes a few years for corners to learn the

"Tampa-2" defense, so this would be the ideal time to start grooming Barber's successor.

3 | LB The Bucs have been blessed with quality starters at this position for a number of years. But MLB Shelton Quarles and WLB Derrick Brooks are on the wrong side of 30 and their production is in danger of slipping slightly. The Bucs drafted MLB Barrett Ruud last year to be groomed as Quarles' successor. This could be the right time to draft Brooks' future replacement.

4 | WR Joey Galloway was outstanding in 2005, but at 34, his days as a No. 1 target are limited. Michael Clayton had a disappointing sophomore campaign, plagued by injuries and a huge drop in production from his rookie year. Clayton's disastrous '05 season — he had no TDs — has instilled some concern in the Bucs' brass over the future potential of their once promising No. 2 target. There's little clarity beyond Galloway, because No. 3 WR Ike Hilliard is a free agent and No. 4 WR Edell Shepherd is still a work in progress. If a top playmaking wideout falls into the Bucs' lap, don't be surprised if they draft one ahead of some other, more pressing needs they might have.

5 | RB Veteran Mike Alstott likely will retire despite being very effective in limited playing time in 2005. The Bucs also need to figure what to do with Michael Pittman, who was productive as Cadillac Williams' backup last season after being a starter in 2004. The Bucs will try to add another running back in the draft to back up Williams.

THE
DECISIONMAKERS

General manager Bruce Allen handles the salary cap well, and he'll have to work his financial magic this offseason, as the Bucs once again will be stuck with a lot of dead money. The franchise's philosophy is to draft the best player available as opposed to strictly addressing team needs. Gruden makes the final call on which players to bring to Tampa. With the success of last year's draft, it appears that Gruden's personnel guys have a good idea of which players fit Gruden's system.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	5	Carnell "Cadillac" Williams	RB	Auburn	Rookie of the Year set many first-year records	14/14
2	36	Barrett Ruud	ILB	Nebraska	Shelton Quarles' apprentice has bright future ahead	16/0
3	71	Alex Smith	TE	Stanford	Two TDs in his debut; great fit for Gruden's offense	16/10
3	91	Chris Colmer	OT	North Carolina St.	Spent his rookie year watching from the sideline	0/0
4	107	Dan Buenning	OG	Wisconsin	Smart, tough, nasty O-lineman; a Gruden favorite	16/16
5	141	Donte Nicholson	SS	Oklahoma	Had tough time cracking lineup in Bucs' veteran "D"	9/0
5	155	Larry Brackins	WR	Pearl River C.C. (Miss.)	Spent '05 on practice squad; has a ton of raw talent	0/0
6	178	Anthony Bryant	DT	Alabama	Didn't see the field after first month of the season	4/0
7	221	Rick Razzano	FB	Mississippi	Suspended four games for violating NFL steroid policy	0/0
7	225	Paris Warren	WR	Utah	Honed his skills on the practice squad	0/0
7	231	Hamza Abdullah	SS	Washington State	Signed off Bucs' practice squad by the Broncos	0/0
7	253	Jeremiah Russell	WR	Louisville	Third in trio of WRs to spend '05 on practice squad	0/0

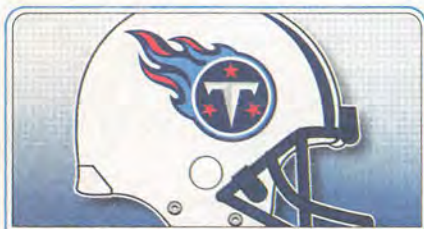
SUMMARY ► GRUDEN'S BEST DRAFT SINCE HE ARRIVED IN TAMPA: HE TRUSTED ROOKIES MORE THAN EVER AND THEY RESPONDED

CADILLAC WILLIAMS



HARRY SCULL JR.

TENNESSEE TITANS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 4-12

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

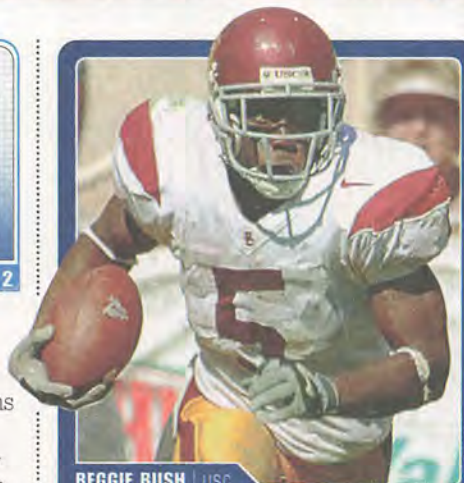
For the past two offseasons, the Titans have had to dig themselves out of salary-cap purgatory. And though they are not quite clear of their self-inflicted financial straits, things are better. The top in-house priorities appear to be resigning DE Kyle Vanden Bosch, a key find last season, and the restructuring of QB Steve McNair's deal, which currently falls under the "unwieldy" category. If the team can do those things, it might be able to make a dent in free agency, but it might bend toward the Vanden Bosch-ian bargain route again.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Tennessee Titans' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 LB After a productive 2004 season, MLB Brad Kassell was re-signed, but he clearly was too slow and late to get in plays, so he's not likely to be back. OLB Peter Sirmon has the respect of the coaching staff, but he had a subpar season too. Even if he returns, the entire unit needs a shot of speed. OLB Keith Bulluck is a fine playmaker and the defense's best all-around player, but he needs help. Other than Bulluck, the team's outside linebackers provided only 2½ sacks last season — all by Sirmon — so a young pass rusher might be sought.

2 QB If things go according to hope, the team will bring McNair back for another season or two with a new contract (he's due a \$50 million roster bonus



REGGIE BUSH | USC

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR TENNESSEE'S SCHEMES

PLAYER COLLEGE	
1. RB REGGIE BUSH	USC
2. QB VINCE YOUNG	Texas
3. LB D'QWELL JACKSON	Maryland
4. S ANTHONY SMITH	Syracuse
5. RB BRIAN CALHOUN	Wisconsin
6. OG-OT CHARLES SPENCER	Pittsburgh
7. WR JEFF WEBB	San Diego State
8. LB DALE ROBINSON	Arizona State
9. FB-RB LAWRENCE VICKERS	Colorado
10. LB SPENCER HAVNER	UCLA
11. FS JAHMILE ADDAE	West Virginia
12. OT GUY WHIMPER	East Carolina

the team clearly won't pay). It would like him to return and help ease the transition to a younger QB — one who could arrive from the draft. Picking third overall, the team could end up with either USC's Matt Leinart, Texas' Vince Young or Vandy's Jay Cutler. Each have their appeal: Leinart worked with Titans offensive coordinator Norm Chow as a junior at USC; Young views McNair as a mentor; and local-product Cutler caught the eye of the coaches at the Senior Bowl. Young is the least refined but might have the highest upside.

3 RB Chris Brown and Travis Henry were expected to be a productive duo, but the team ranked only 23rd in rushing yards and neither back had a 100-yard game. Brown stayed injury-free, a key development, but he lacked some of the burst he showed in '04. Henry's contract must be altered for him to be back. Between a below-average performance on the field and a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy, Henry won't be given a \$4 million roster bonus. This team needs a game-breaking threat, preferably a back who can catch passes, too.

4 S SS Tank Williams struggled for the first part of the season, trying to come back from knee surgery, but he responded with improved play late. He's an unrestricted free agent, though, and could land elsewhere. FS Lamont Thompson also had a subpar season and is due \$2.5 million — the second part of a two-tiered bonus. Though the Titans like FS Vincent Fuller and have hopes for project Marcus Randall, they likely would need to add a heady safety who can run and cover, but if Williams leaves, they'll be missing an in-the-box presence vs. the run.

5 WR There's no question about the depth here. Rookies Courtney Roby, Brandon Jones and Roydell Williams all showed potential, and Drew Bennett is a very capable receiver. But the team lacks a true No. 1 option. None of the current players command a double team; Bennett's career season in 2004 appears to be more of an aberration than something to be expected year in and year out. This likely will be a position the team upgrades through free agency, though, considering the group's youth.

THE DECISIONMAKERS

GM Floyd Reese is a former coach and appears to have a solid eye for talent. He works well with head coach/executive vice president Jeff Fisher, who takes serious interest in scouting. Fisher's staff got a first-hand look at top college prospects at the Senior Bowl, allowing director of player personnel Rich Sneed and director of college scouting Mike Ackerly and their staff to look at players working with the Titans' coaches and running the team's system.

DRAFT

REWIND • 2005 TENNESSEE TITANS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/BS
1	6	Pacman Jones	CB	West Virginia	Good returner but struggled at CB and must mature	15/13
2	41	Michael Roos	OT	E. Washington	Started at OT; showed durability, toughness	16/16
3	68	Courtney Roby	WR	Indiana	Proficient kick returner who slowed down the stretch	13/6
3	96	Brandon Jones	WR	Oklahoma	Best of Titans' rookies before ACL tear ended season	10/8
4	108	Vincent Fuller	FS	Virginia Tech	Earned nickel spot before year-ending ankle injury	2/0
4	113	David Stewart	OL	Mississippi State	Inactive for 16 games; remains work in progress	0/0
4	136	Roydell Williams	WR	Tulane	Has raw ability but might never be more than No. 3	10/2
5	142	Damien Nash	RB	Missouri	Beat out by Jarrett Payton but will get another crack	3/0
5	150	Daniel Loper	OT	Texas Tech	Project never suited up but could be in OT mix in '06	0/0
6	179	Bo Scaife	TE	Texas	Proved to be nice surprise with 37 catches	16/5
7	218	Reynaldo Hill	CB	Florida	Tremendous draft steal had three picks	15/10

SUMMARY SCAIFE, HILL BAILED OUT UNDERPERFORMERS; TEAM HASN'T GIVEN UP ON PACMAN, BUT HE MUST SHOW IMPROVEMENT **BRANDON JONES**



LES BENTLEY

WASHINGTON REDSKINS



2005 SEASON RECORD: 10-6

OFFSEASON OUTLOOK

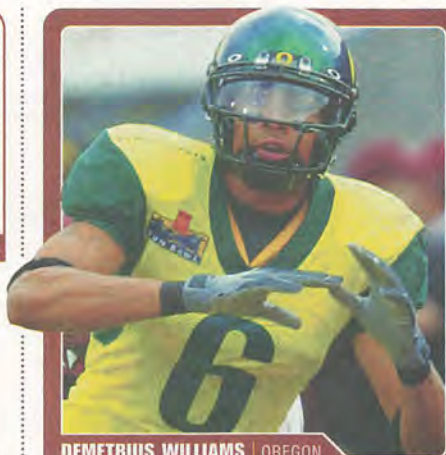
With their first-round pick in the hands of the Broncos (via the Jason Campbell trade), the Redskins might not be big players on Draft Day, at least not early on. It might be the end of an era, too, as LaVar Arrington could be cut in the offseason. And there might be some sentiment to accelerate Campbell's learning curve, especially given the way the offense struggled in the postseason. In addition to the needs listed, the team also might opt for some CB depth (Walt Harris might be gone) and some interior help on the offensive line.

TEAM NEEDS

The following are the Washington Redskins' top five needs, in order of importance, that will be addressed via the NFL draft and free agency.

1 WR The team's offensive meltdown during the postseason highlighted a need that originally cropped up following David Patten's season-ending injury. The over-reliance on Santana Moss and the lack of a complementary target plagued the offense down the stretch, limiting the number of formations the team could use and making the team more one-dimensional. The team might opt for a bigger target to complement Moss and Patten. The Redskins strongly considered USC WR Mike Williams, believed to be the favorite of owner Daniel Snyder, last year and might look at a split end with some size. Team sources expect at least one receiver to be signed via free agency.

2 DE The team has lacked a consistent pass-rushing threat from the edge for some time now. Starting DEs Renaldo Wynn and Phillip Daniels fit Gregg Williams' system well with their strength at the point of attack and their ability to move



DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS | OREGON

The HOT List

THE PLAYERS WHO ARE BEST-SUITED FOR WASHINGTON'S SCHEMES

PLAYER	COLLEGE
1. WR DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS	Oregon
2. DE-DT TAMBA HALL	Penn State
3. OLB BOBBY CARPENTER	Ohio State
4. DE-DT DARRYL TAPP	Virginia Tech
5. LB GERRIS WILKINSON	Georgia Tech
6. SS DWAYNE SLAY	Texas Tech
7. WR HANK BASKETT	New Mexico
8. OT-OG RYAN O'CALLAGHAN	California
9. OT BRAD BUTLER	Virginia
10. WR MARTIN NANCE	Miami (Ohio)
11. TE JASON POCIASK	Wisconsin
12. DE JASON HATCHER	Grambling State

inside on passing downs and play vs. the run, but the team could use a sub-package pass rusher with some speed to mix up the looks Williams likes to present. Yes, Daniels had six sacks in the final three regular-season games, but most of them were of the "effort" or coverage-sack variety. A versatile DE-DT type also is a possibility because Williams likes to move his guys around.

3 TE Although the position is not in need of a major upgrade, a blocking tight end with some athleticism and special-teams ability is on the team's list of needs. Because the offense is predicated on the run

and the team uses so many two-TE formations, a quality wham-blocker would be just what the doctor ordered. Robert Royal can't anchor the point of attack. An addition here would allow H-backs Chris Cooley and Mike Sellers to block less often.

4 P After Tom Tupa went down in the pre-season with a back injury, replacements Andy Groom and Derrick Frost failed to impress with a combined net of 37.7 yards. If Tupa, who turned 40 in February, doesn't return, the Redskins will look to bring someone else in. This year's draft features an average lot of punters, with a handful earning draft-worthy grades as Day Two possibilities. However, the free-agent class — highlighted by Carolina's Jason Baker, Seattle's Tom Rouen and Baltimore's Dave Zastudil — might be the more likely route the team takes if it upgrades the position.

5 LB Depending on what happens with Arrington and how the team feels about its young depth, this need could rise on the list of priorities. Washington simply could plug reliable Warrick Holdman into Arrington's WLB spot, as it did early last season, and go from there. Or a series of changes could occur. MLB Lemar Marshall impressed as a first-time starter, but his athleticism might be a bigger asset on the weak side, so that could open a starting spot in the middle. Nickel 'backer Chris Clemons is an intriguing option too and would replace Arrington as a pass rusher. If the staff thinks he can run and cover, Clemons might be the guy. Otherwise, look for a veteran addition to beef up the position a bit.

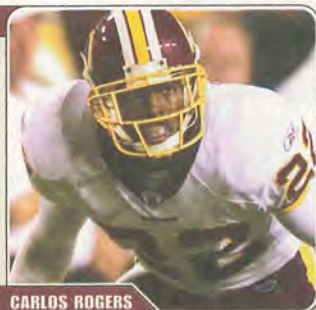
THE DECISIONMAKERS

When Joe Gibbs was named head coach — and perhaps more significant, team president — two years ago, it was believed that he'd have final authority and/or be granted sole autonomy on all personnel matters. Sure, there are many who believe that's still the case, but Gibbs maintains that he and vice president of football operations Vinny Cerrato share equal say on signings, draft picks and even player cuts, with Snyder serving as the tiebreaker on close disputes. Cerrato has been with Snyder off and on since he bought the team, and both owner and coach appear comfortable with Cerrato handling some of the day-to-day operations without giving him too much responsibility — or credit — for player evaluation and movement.

DRAFT REWIND • 2005 WASHINGTON REDSKINS RECAP

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	9	Carlos Rogers	CB	Auburn	Cracked starting lineup by season's end and did well	12/7
1	25	Jason Campbell	QB	Auburn	Spent year watching Brunell but could compete soon	0/0
4	120	Manuel White Jr.	H-B	UCLA	Switch to H-back a wash after broken leg ended year	0/0
5	154	Robert McCune	ILB	Louisville	Freakish athlete was cut, re-signed for stretch run	5/0
6	183	Jared Newberry	OLB	Stanford	Cut in training camp	0/0
7	222	Nehemiah Broughton	FB	The Citadel	Played special teams, could earn short-yardage role	4/0

SUMMARY ▶ LONG-TERM VALUE OF SMALL GROUP DEPENDS ON ROGERS AND CAMPBELL, WHO COULD BE THE FUTURE STARTER



CARLOS ROGERS

PLAYER INDEX

PLAYER / POS.	PAGE	PLAYER / POS.	PAGE	PLAYER / POS.	PAGE
Adams, Darrell / DE	87	Ganter, Quinton / RB	46	London, Justin / ILB	97
Adams, Titus / DT	93	Gilbert, Ryan / RB	46	Love, Grayling / C	81
Addae, Jahmile / S	117	Gocong, Chris / DE	87	Lowry, Calvin / S	116
Addai, Joseph / RB	42	Golston, Kedric / DT	93	Lulay, Travis / QB	38
Adeyanju, Victor / DE	86	Goodwell, Tim / ILB	97	Lundy, Wali / RB	46
Allen, Jason / S	115	Gordon, Charles / CB	108	Lutui, Taitusi "Deuce" / OG	73
Allen, Will / OG	75	Gostkowski, Stephen / PK	119	Mahefona, Jesse / DT	93
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Anderson, David / WR	58	Green, Marcus / DT	93	Mangold, Nick / C	78
Anderson, James / OLB	103	Green, Skyler / WR	58	Manning, Daniele / CB	108
Anderson, Mark / DE	86	Greenway, Chad / OLB	99	Maroney, Laurence / RB	41
Anderson, Sir Henry / DT	93	Griffin, Cedric / CB	106	Marshall, Brandon / WR	58
Andrews, Willie / CB	110	Guillory, Brandon / DE	87	Marshall, Richard / CB	106
Antolick, Lance / C	81	Hackney, Darrell / QB	36	Martin, Derrick / CB	110
Aromashodu, Devin / WR	57	Hagan, Derek / WR	52	Martin, Jimmy / OT	70
Austin, Miles / WR	58	Hagans, Marques / RB	46	Massaquoi, Tim / TE	63
Avant, Jason / WR	52	Hali, Tamba / DE	83	Mathis, Wendell / RB	44
Baker, Matt / QB	38	Hall, Andre / RB	44	Matua, Fred / OG	77
Basanez, Brett / QB	36	Hand, Randy / OT	70	Maxey, Marcus / CB	108
Baskett, Hank / WR	55	Hannon, Chris / WR	58	McCann, Alton / CB	110
Baughner, Danny / P	119	Haralson, Parys / DE	84	McCargo, John / DT	89
Bell, Mike / RB	46	Harper, Roman / S	114	McClover, Stanley / DE	87
Bennett, Charles / DE	87	Harrell, Chris / S	117	McDaniel, Tony / DT	93
Bernstein, Matt / FB	49	Harris, Gilbert / FB	49	McDonald, Lequan / OG	77
Bethea, Antoine / S	117	Harris, Orien / DT	90	McGarigle, Tim / ILB	97
Bienemann, Troy / TE	63	Harrison, Jerome / RB	44	McGrew, Sam / ILB	97
Bilbo, Damaris / WR	57	Hartigan, Nick / FB	49	McIntosh, Roger "Rocky" / OLB	100
Bing, Darnell / S	113	Hass, Mike / WR	53	McNeal, Reggie / WR	57
Blackmon, Will / CB	107	Hatcher, Jason / DE	87	McNeil, Chris / C	81
Bloom, Jeremy / RS	118	Havner, Spencer / ILB	97	McNeill, Marcus / OT	65
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Boothe, Kevin / OG	74	Hawkins, Chris / CB	110	McQuistan, Paul / OT	70
Bouknight, Jovon / WR	57	Henderson, Eric / DE	87	Meadow, Rob / OT	70
Boykin, McKinley / DT	93	Henderson, Taurean / RB	46	Meeks, Vincent / S	117
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Brockington, Cornell / RB	46	Hester, Devin / RS	118	Meyer, Erik / QB	38
Brooks, Darrell / S	117	Hill, Quadrine / FB	48	Milhauser, Nick / C	81
Brown, Mania / DT	93	Hill, Tye / CB	106	Miller, John / C	81
Brown, Ricky / OLB	103	Hinkel, Ed / WR	58	Mills, Garrett / TE	63
Bryan, Copeland / DE	87	Hodge, Abdul / ILB	95	Minter, DeMario / CB	110
Bullocks, Daniel / S	113	Holland, Justin / QB	38	Mix, Anthony / WR	58
Bunkley, Brodrick / DT	89	Holmes, Santonio / WR	50	Montgomery, Will / C	80
Bush, Reggie / RB	40	Honeycutt, Brad / OG	77	Moore, DonTrell / RB	42
Butler, Brad / OT	68	Houston, Reuben / CB	110	Morris, Chris / C	80
Butler, Rashad / OT	66	Howard, Thomas / OLB	100	Morris, Derek / OT	68
Byrd, Dominique / TE	62	Hoyte, Oliver / ILB	97	Moss, Sinorice / WR	51
Calhoun, Brian / RB	42	Hudson, Marcus / S	116	Murphy, Jason / OG	77
Carfagno, Anthony / FB	49	Huff, Michael / CB	104	Nance, Martin / WR	55
Carpenter, Bobby / OLB	100	Hughes, Connor / PK	119	Nande, Terna / OLB	103
Carter, Jason / WR	58	Humes, Cedric / RB	46	Nanton, Javon / DE	87
Chester, Chris / C	79	Hunter, Darrell / CB	110	Nealy, Barrick / QB	38
Church, Marcello / OLB	103	Huston, Josh / PK	119	Ngata, Haloti / DT	88
Clark, Brian / WR	58	Ingram, Clint / OLB	103	Nicholson, A.J. / OLB	103
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Colledge, Daryn / OG	73	Jackson, Tarvaris / QB	37	O'Callaghan, Ryan / OT	67
Colston, Marques / WR	58	Jackson, Tommy / DT	93	Ojinnaka, Quinn / OT	68
Cook, Ryan / OT	70	Jacobs, Omar / QB	38	Oliver, Melvin / DE	86
Cottrell, Jimmy / ILB	97	Jean-Gilles, Max / OT	73	Olson, Drew / QB	38
Cromartie, Antonio / CB	105	Jenkins, Julian / DE	84	Orr, Jonathan / WR	57
Croyle, Brodie / QB	35	Jennings, Greg / WR	55	Oshinowo, Babatunde / DT	93
Culver, Tyrone / S	117	Jennings, Kelly / CB	105	Page, Jarrad / S	117
Cutler, Jay / QB	35	Jennings, Tim / CB	108	Palermo, Jason / OG	77
Daniels, Owen / TE	63	Johnson, Brandon / OLB	103	Parham, Kai / ILB	95
Daniels, P.J. / RB	43	Johnson, Charlie / OT	70	Peko, Domata / DT	93
Davis, Charles / TE	63	Jolly, Johnny / DT	93	Penn, Donald / OT	70
Davis, Jason / FB	49	Jones, Brandon / FB	49	Pennington, Terrance / OT	70
Davis, Vernon / TE	60	Joseph, Davin / OG	72	Peprah, Charlie / S	117
Day, Tim / TE	63	Joseph, Johnathan / CB	110	Phillip, Marvin / C	81
De La Garza, Aldo / OG	77	Justice, Winston / OT	65	Phillips, Anwar / CB	110
Dean, B.J. / FB	49	Keiaho, Freddy / ILB	95	Pinegar, Paul / QB	38
Degory, Mike / C	80	Keith, Charlton / DE	87	Pittman, David / CB	110
Demps, Marcus / S	117	Kershaw, William / OLB	103	Plackemeier, Ryan / P	119
Derting, Will / OLB	103	King, Jeff / TE	63	Pociask, Jason / TE	63
Dobbins, Tim / ILB	96	Kirtman, David / FB	49	Pollard, Bernard / S	114
Doughty, Reed / S	117	Kiwanuka, Mathias / DE	83	Pope, Leonard / TE	61
Douglas, Cody / OG	77	Klatt, Joel / QB	38	Pope, P.J. / RB	46
Drew, Maurice / RB-RS	44, 118	Klopfenstein, Joe / TE	61	Porter, Quinton / QB	38
Dumervil, Elvis / DE	86	Kudla, Mike / DE	87	Powers-Neal, Rashon / FB	49
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Edwards, Ray / DE	86	LaCasse, Ryan / DE	85	Reddick, Troy / OT	70
Elliott, Brett / QB	38	Landry, Dawan / S	116	Reid, Willie / WR	58
Ellison, Keith / OLB	101	Lawson, Manny / DE	84	Rice, Matt / DE	87
Eslinger, Greg / C	79	Lay, Josh / CB	110	Riggs, Gerald / RB	44
Eugene, Bruce / QB	38	Lee, Greg / WR	55	Roach, Freddie / ILB	97
Evans, Jahri / OG	74	Lefotu, Kili / C	81	Robinson, Dale / ILB	96
Everett, Tyler / S	117	Leinart, Matt / QB	35	Robinson, Michael / WR	51
Fasano, Anthony / TE	62	Lemon, J.R. / RB	46	Rodgers, Cory / WR	56
Fells, Daniel / TE	63	Lentz, Matt / C	81	Roland, Dennis / OT	70
Ferguson, D'Brickshaw / OT	64	Lewis, Jonathan / DT	90	Ross, Cory / RB	46
Gaitner, Omar / OLB	101	Lewis, Marcedes / TE	61	Ross, Derrick / RB	46
				Ross, Pat / C	80
				Ross, Richie / WR	58
				Rucker, Frostee / DE	87
				Runnels, J.D. / FB	49
				Ryans, DeMeco / OLB	99
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				Scott, Jonathan / OT	66
				Setterstrom, Mark / OG	77
				Shockley, D.J. / QB	36
				Simon, Kevin / OLB	103
				Simpson, Ko / S	113
				Sims, Ernie / OLB	99
				Sims, Rob / OG	74
				Slaughter, Jake / FB	49
				Slay, Dwayne / S	116
				Smith, Alvin / DT	93
				Smith, Anthony / S	113
				Smith, Brad / WR	53
				Smith, Eric / S	117
				Smith, Kent / QB	38
				Smith, Rob / OG	77
				Solomon, Clinton / WR	58
				Sowells, Isaac / OG	75
				Spencer, Charles / OG	74
				Spitz, Jason / C	79
				Stallings, Tre' / OG	77
				Stanley, Montavious / DT	93
				Stenavich, Adam / OG	77
				Stevenson, Dan / OG	77
				Stinson, Albert / OT	70
				Stovall, Maurice / WR	52
				Strief, Zach / OT	67
				Sypniewski, Quinn / TE	63
				Tahl, Naufahu / FB	49
				Tanner, Russ / C	81
				Tapp, Darryl / DE	84
				Taylor, Chris / RB	46
				Tella, Tony / OG	77
				Thomas, David / TE	62
				Toeaina, Albert / OT	70
				Toledo, Joe / OT	68
				Toudouze, Michael / OT	70
				Trucks, Anthony / OLB	103
				Trueblood, Jeremy / OT	66
				Tulloch, Stephen / ILB	97
				Turman, Daccus / FB	49
				Van Acker, Brian / C	81
				Vaughn, Cameron / ILB	97
				Vick, Marcus / QB	38
				Vickers, Lawrence / FB	49
				Void, Jerod / RB	46
				Walker, Delanie / WR	56
				Walker, John / CB	108
				Wallace, Cooper / TE	63
				Ware, Scott / S	116
				Washington, Leon / RB	43
				Watkins, Pat / S	114
				Watkins, Todd / WR	56
				Watson, Gabe / DT	89
				Weatherford, Steve / P	119
				Webb, Dee / CB	110
				Webb, Jeff / WR	56
				Wheeler, Stefan / OT	70
				Whimper, Guy / OT	68
				White, LenDale / RB	41
				Whitehead, Terrence / RB	46
				Whitehurst, Charlie / QB	35
				Whitley, E.J. / OT	70
				Whitner, Donte / S	112
				Whitworth, Andrew / OT	66
				Wilkinson, Gerris / ILB	95
				Williams, Brandon / WR-RS	55, 118
				Williams, DeAngelo / RB	41
				Williams, Demetrius / WR	51
				Williams, Jamar / OLB	103
				Williams, Jimmy / CB	106
				Williams, Kyle / DT	91
				Williams, Leon / ILB	96
				Williams, Mario / DE	82
				Williams, Steve / DT	93
				Williams, T.J. / TE	62
				Williams, Travis / OLB	103
				Willis, Shawn / FB	49
				Wilson, Travis / WR	56
				Wimbley, Kameron / DE	83
				Winston, Eric / OT	65
				Wright, Rodrigue / DT	90
				Wroten, Claude / DT	90
				Wyatt, Justin / CB	110
				Wyche, James / DE	87
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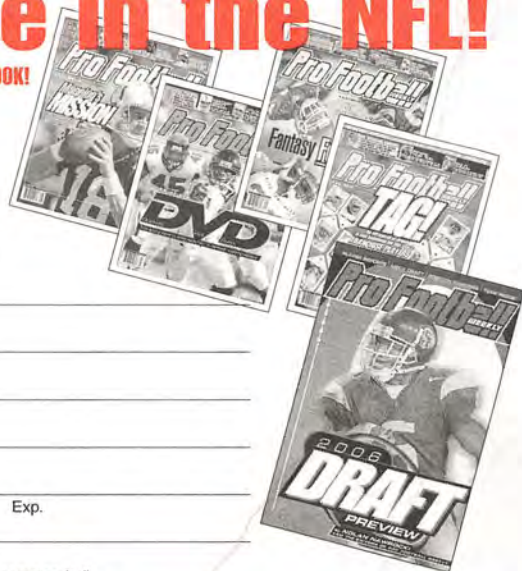


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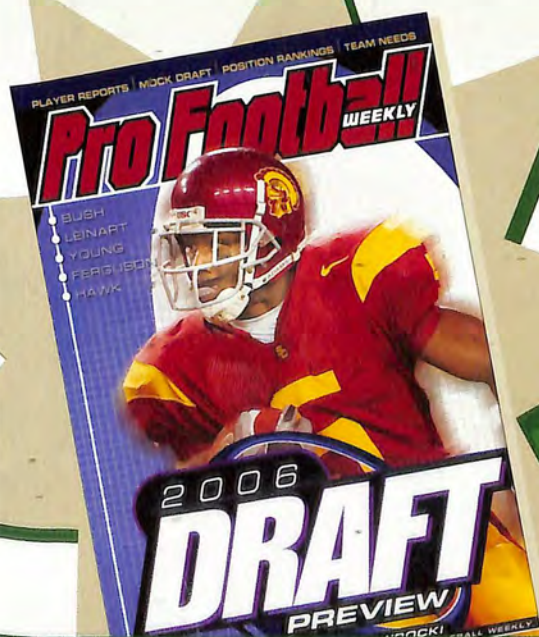
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